

# Smoking North Sea wreck where 166 perished



Thick smoke belching from the torn skeleton of the Piper Alpha platform yesterday as fires continued to rage after the blast which cost 166 lives in the world's worst oilfield disaster.

## Gas build-up theory in worst oil disaster

By David Sapsted, Andrew Morgan and Ruth Gledhill

A build-up of lethal gas, odourless and un-noticed, was believed last night to have triggered the explosion which blew apart the Piper Alpha oil production platform in the North Sea, leaving 166 men dead, including three rescuers.

The Government ordered an inquiry into the tragedy, the world's worst oilfield disaster.

Last night investigators from the Department of Energy and other oil experts were standing by to board the wrecked platform as soon as the fire, which sent flames 700 ft into the sky and was seen 60 miles away, is under control.

The inquiry will centre on the cause of the gas leak in the rig's "C" module, which resulted in the two huge blasts and subsequent fires which, yesterday, left only a quarter of the platform still standing above water.

The "C" module is a self-contained gas compression chamber which is built in one piece and lifted onto the platform to fit like a jig-saw into the final construction.

Gas tapped from the oil wells is compressed in the "C" module before either being sent ashore or into the oil

reservoir to maintain pressure.

As the investigation began into the causes, the rescue services were baffled by the delay between the first explosion at 9.31pm on Wednesday and the first call for help from a supply vessel at 9.58pm.

Mr Eoin Kerr, a radio maritime officer at Wick, said: "About four minutes later a call came through from Piper Alpha saying that there was a fire in the radio room. It sounded as though the situation on the rig was pretty horrendous."

The last message he heard from the unidentified radio-man was: "We're abandoning the rig. Jesus Christ, we've got to get out of here. There's no more time, we've got to get out."

The extensive sea and air search, which involved 45 ships, eight helicopters and an RAF Nimrod command post will continue today in the 20-mile exclusion zone imposed around the rig, 120 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

Mr Alistair Lynn, Grampian Chief Constable, last night admitted, however, that there was practically no hope of finding more than the 66 survivors accounted for.

Three of the 166 still missing last night were seamen who went to the rescue of oilmen trapped on the blazing rig on Wednesday. All

survivors were treated at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and 23 were still there last night, most suffering from burns. Two were in a serious condition.

Scores of workers on Piper Alpha had tried to escape from the stricken platform during 20 terrifying minutes.

The Queen said in her message of sympathy: "I was shocked to hear of the dreadful disaster which befell the Piper Alpha platform last night. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the injured and bereaved. I should also like to express my admiration for the gallant efforts of the firefighting, rescue and medical services in preventing even greater loss of life."

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between the first and the last explosion, which finally tore it apart.

Rescuers aboard the support vessel, Tharos, and other ships near by spoke of oilmen waving frantically from the helipad and other parts of the platform before the final blast "just blew them away".

Mr Bill Elder, a rigger from Kirkcaldy, Fife, who was on

the Tharos, said: "It was horrifying and sickening. We saw 10 men waving from the helipad but there was nothing we could do to help them before there was another huge explosion. That was the last we saw of them."

The first of the explosions occurred shortly after 9.30 pm, when at least half of the 232, mainly British, crew on board were resting in the rig's multi-storey accommodation block, which was demolished in the explosion.

Mr John Brading, Occidental's UK chairman, said: "It would appear that the first explosion occurred due to an escape of gas in the 'C' module. A series of explosions and fires quickly followed."

"Eight vessels in the immediate vicinity of Piper rendered assistance in rescue and fire fighting."

"The damage to the platform is obviously extensive and includes the complete destruction of three of the four major plant modules housing the oil and gas separation facilities, gas compression, power generation, utilities and accommodation."

As fire broke out followed by another large blast and a succession of smaller ones, men moved into the sea 50 ft below or scrambled down

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## Survivors' leap into darkness

By Staff Reporters

A survivor told yesterday how he leapt 70 feet without knowing what was beneath him after facing a choice of "stay and get toasted or jump and chance it in the water".

Mr Dave Lambert, aged 38, of Thornaby, Cleveland, who was in the water for several hours before being rescued, said he had looked for an escape route through all four doors of the area he was in, but that each had become engulfed by flames.

"I thought I was dead. I thought I had had it. All of a sudden the floor opened up — the deck just collapsed," he said.

"The cabin slid forward and a hole appeared so we just

made for that. We just had to jump. We couldn't see whether there was water below us or not. It must have been 60 or 70 feet. We didn't know what was there, it could have been another deck. It was just a matter of having to do something."

"It was stay and get toasted or jump and chance it in the water. It was Hobson's Choice. There was another lad with me — I don't know who he was but I know he was all right. We both got separated in the water but I saw him getting picked up."

Mr Lambert said the time between the explosions and

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An exhausted survivor helped by Loadmaster Bob Pountney from an RAF helicopter at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

### Exam results

Degrees awarded by Southampton University will be published tomorrow. Trinity Bar results and Oxford class lists appear today. Page 24

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### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Child doctors sued

Legal action against Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, the two consultant paediatricians at the centre of the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis, was launched yesterday on behalf of a Middlesbrough couple and their three daughters. The writs claim aggravated damages and also allege that the children were sexually assaulted by the doctors. Page 3

## New curbs on councils

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, last night surprised MPs with a change of policy in the run-up to the introduction of the community charge. He said the Government would in future control the amounts councils borrow rather than concentrate on their expenditure. Page 4

## Phone freeze

British Telecom is to freeze most of its charges till August next year after "tough negotiations" with Ofel, the watchdog body. Charges for the elderly and the disabled will be cheaper. Page 4

## £75m gap in Rover talks

British Aerospace and the European Commission are £75m apart in the tough negotiations over the financial terms of the Rover Group sale. The EEC have told Lord Sale. The EEC have told Lord Sale. The EEC have told Lord Sale. Page 21

## £2m transfer

Tottenham Hotspur paid £2 million, a record between British clubs, for Paul Gascoigne, the Newcastle United "midfield player. Gascoigne, aged 21, has signed a five-year contract. Page 36

## Iran bares its grief on air deaths

From Nicholas Beeston

Thousands of Iranian mourners chanting anti-American slogans marched through the streets of central Tehran yesterday, parading the coffins of 72 victims of the Airbus disaster.

In the first large scale display of grief and anger since Sunday's missile attack on the

## Explosive mix

jet, the crowds assembled on the hot and dusty Imam Khomeini street in front of the Parliament building where the coffins, draped in Iranian flags and flanked by bouquets of gladioli, were displayed. Only a few thousand marchers and spectators turned up, a far cry from the bevy of hundreds of thousands who would spontaneously de-

Continued on page 20, col 7

## Solicitor jailed in Brink's-Mat case

By Michael Horsnell

A London solicitor who acted as "Chancellor of the Exchequer" in an £18 million Brink's-Mat gold bullion laundering operation was sent to prison yesterday for 12 years.

Michael Rellon, aged 50, of Chase Farm, Haslemere, Surrey, was found guilty of conspiring to handle proceeds of the record 1983 robbery on a majority verdict at the Central Criminal Court and later was described by Judge Richard Lowry QC as a "rich parasite".

The jury, which deliberated for five days, went on unanimously to convict Mrs Kathleen McAvoy, aged 40, of Southborough Lane, Bromley, Kent, for conspiring to handle stolen goods. Her husband, Michael, is serving 25 years for his part in the robbery at the Brink's-Mat warehouse near Heathrow Airport. She received 18 months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

## This cutlery book has taken 86 years to write

It was in 1902 that my grandfather first started to design and produce his own quality silver-plated and stainless steel cutlery. He also decided that the cutlery was going to bear his name. He was going to personally guarantee each and every piece. Later my father continued this tradition and the range and company grew. 86 years later, I'm proud to say that our cutlery graces the tables of some of Britain's most famous homes. The family tradition and guarantee continues and Arthur Price of England enjoys an unrivalled reputation throughout the world for producing the finest quality cutlery. Our new full colour Sheffield Cutlery Album portrays our entire range. Page after page of the finest cutlery you can buy. Send now for your free copy and a very special £10 voucher. We think you'll find looking through our book time well spent — after all it's taken us 86 years to write it.

John Price, Chairman, Arthur Price of England.

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North Sea disaster survivor: 'There was only one thing to do. I dived about 50 ft, totally

# Six words that launched huge rescue operation

One of the largest rescue operations ever seen in the North Sea began on Wednesday at 9.58pm when the Aberdeen coastguard received a mayday call from an oil rig support vessel, the Lowland Cavalier. The message was short: "An explosion on the Piper Alpha".

The mayday generated a massive response over the next two hours as further details of the disaster emerged. In all there were 12 helicopters, a Nimrod search and rescue maritime patrol aircraft, six warships, a Royal Navy fishery protection vessel and an assortment of oil rig and coastguard vessels and commercial helicopters.

The involvement of the warships from the Nato Standing Naval Force Atlantic was a unique aspect of the rescue operation.

The night log in the operations room of the RAF-manned Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Pitreavie at Dunfermline, which is also the headquarters for the Royal Navy's Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, details the

development of the operation through the night, culminating with the arrival early on Thursday morning of an American admiral to take charge of the ships gathered around the burning oil installation.

9.31pm: The first of two massive explosions on Piper Alpha. A mayday call may have been made but it is not received by the nearest coastguard at Aberdeen.

9.58pm: A mayday call from the Lowland Cavalier is picked up by the Aberdeen coastguard on the international distress frequency, 2182 medium wave. The message is short: "Explosion at Piper Alpha". A full alert is mounted.

10.02pm: The rescue centre at Pitreavie receives a request for help.

10.05pm: Maritime radio officer at British Telecom station at Wick, Highland, in direct radio contact with Piper Alpha.

10.10pm: First survivors arrive on board a

support vessel, MSV Tharos, which is later forced to pull back to a mile from the blazing platform. Injured receive emergency treatment on board the vessel, which has hospital accommodation for 22 as well as fire-fighting equipment.

10.13pm: RAF Sea King helicopter at RAF Boulmer on the Northumberland coast is scrambled.

10.17pm: HMS Gannet, Royal Navy shore base at Prestwick, Ayrshire, and home of a squadron of Sea Kings is alerted. One Sea King picks up an Aberdeen medical team and flies to the Tharos.

10.19pm: RAF Nimrod based at Kinloss, Grampian, is scrambled to provide overhead surveillance and co-ordinate helicopters.

10.22pm: An RAF Sea King returning to RAF Lossiemouth, Grampian, is ordered to refuel and fly out to the disaster scene.

10.37pm: Royal Navy Sea King from Prestwick, Strathclyde, is told to fly to Lossiemouth.

10.45pm: Shetland coastguard tells Pitreavie it has a helicopter airborne from Sumburgh.

10.56pm: A second RAF Sea King from Lossiemouth is airborne.

11.26pm: The Nimrod arrives over Piper Alpha and reports that the platform is "totally on fire from sea level to the top" (310ft). The pilot also reports there is a semi-submersible vessel (that was Tharos) 300 yards from the inferno. An RAF Sea King arrives at Lossiemouth from Leconfield, Humberside, to refuel and be held in reserve.

11.35pm: First rescue helicopter, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Stephen Hodgson from RAF Lossiemouth arrives but is unable to get near the platform because of the heat. It later helped ferry injured men to hospital in Aberdeen from the Tharos.

12am: Vice-Admiral Jock Slater, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland and also Nato Commander North Atlantic at Pitreavie, after reviewing the situation with his staff, sends a

signal to Rear-Admiral John Scott Redd, American commander of the six-warship Nato Standing Naval Force Atlantic which at that moment was steaming from Norway towards Portsmouth for a routine maintenance period.

The Nato naval force was then 180 miles south of Piper Alpha. The signal from Vice-Admiral Slater said: "Proceed with all dispatch. Assume some of action surface command".

3.28am: The first helicopter arrives at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with casualties.

4am: A temporary restriction on flying, legally enforceable, is imposed. The exclusion zone covers a radius of 15 miles around the platform up to a height of 15,000ft.

5am: A Royal Navy fishery protection vessel, HMS Blackwater, arrives at the scene.

6.30am: The first of the Nato naval force, USS Hayler and FCGS Koba, arrive, one hour ahead of time. Rear-Admiral Redd takes over control of the ships at the scene.

## Safety on the platforms

## Regular practice prepares oilmen for disasters at sea

Safety precautions on North Sea oil installations are extremely strict and are instilled into oilmen from the moment they are taken on, oil experts said yesterday.

All employees have to attend four or five-day offshore survival courses run by the Petroleum Industry Training Board in Scotland. Those cover not only general safety but also helicopter evacuation drills and in some cases fire-fighting.

Those are backed up by regular so-called Norox training exercises run by the Department of Energy to test lines of communication in simulated disasters.

Ironically the most recent of those, which was carried out last December, simulated an accident at Tarnan Alpha, the oil rig close to Piper Alpha which has now had to be closed down as a safety precaution.

The December exercise tested reactions to a simulated disaster in which Tarnan Alpha was hit by a supply boat, causing a fire and a small explosion.

Among the features tested were lines of communication, procedures for the control of a fire and the release of hydrogen sulphide gases.

The first thing any worker or visitor to a platform is shown is what they should do in an emergency.

Everyone aboard is allocated a muster station and a lifeboat number and shown where they should wait for further instructions from the safety officer assigned to their group.

They are also shown how to put on life jackets, how to get into the sealed lifeboats and how to fasten the safety harness they will need if the lifeboat is suddenly dropped into the sea. They are told about emergency alarm codes.

However, it seems that the speed of the fire which ripped through the Piper Alpha platform gave the crew no time to put into practice the lessons they will have learned.

All offshore platforms are equipped with sophisticated monitoring and alarm systems, many of them designed to detect any build-up of

explosive gas and many able automatically to close valves and pipelines.

All the systems are monitored by computer-controlled equipment in the platforms control room and on some platforms that information is also beamed by micro-wave to shore bases where it can also be logged.

Since last year emergencies in the North Sea have been handled by the Offshore Clean Seas and Emergency Services (Oces) which merged the databanks of the two previous emergency co-ordination agencies.

That data is stored in a data system which can be called up on terminals at the various incident control facilities throughout the UK, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway and Ireland. Terminals are also available in the Government departments which monitor the oil industry.

The system contains data about fire-fighting, diving support, pollution control, crane barges and levels of accommodation.

The co-ordinator liaises with

the police, coastguard and military rescue services in the area and helps co-ordinate the handling of inquiries from relatives of those who may be involved in any incident.

Safety regulations, which are laid down by the Department of Energy, specify that no alcohol must be taken on board any oil rig and smoking is limited to specially designated areas in living quarters.

Employees are subjected to searches before they leave the mainland to ensure that they are not carrying matches, lighters, alcoholic drinks, drugs or any other dangerous substances.

Each platform has a safety vessel on hand. As the men work, sleep, eat in the restaurants or relax, the vessel constantly circles in case of trouble.

In recent months the Department of Energy has been putting pressure on oil rig operators to improve offshore safety standards. Those have concentrated on meetings with senior management to prevent accidents.

## Unions predicted 'conflict of interest'

Unions representing offshore workers say the Government has been warned repeatedly that entrusting safety to the Department of Energy is a "contradictory and unhealthy situation which could lead to a major disaster".

Mr Roger Lyons, assistant general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, said it gave him no consolation to point to the Piper Alpha tragedy as vindication of his concern.

The department maintained yesterday that its Petroleum Engineering Division oversaw offshore safety because it had working for it "some of the best men in the field in the world".

A report of the inquiry into Offshore Safety was presented to Parliament eight years ago. Mr Lyons and his colleagues on the committee, Mr John Miller of the transport union, disagreed with its recom-

mendation that offshore safety should be handled by the department and published a minority report. Offshore safety, they said, should be the responsibility of an independent government agency.

Both men felt strongly that pressures within the department to extract the oil and gas quickly would create conflict with the responsibility to ensure the highest possible safety standards.

They said then: "Any unification of responsibilities under the auspices of the Department of Energy, as the sponsoring department, entails a continuing risk to the possible detriment of safety standards".

They rejected one of the committee's main recommendations that the Department of Energy was capable of "discharging this responsibility effectively".

Mr Lyons and Mr Miller

highlighted the Norwegian decision that the industry's sponsoring department should have no responsibility for health and safety.

"One leading transnational corporation found the Norwegian Inspectorate much 'tougher' than the 'weaker' UK system. Norwegian inspectors, for example, make sudden inspections, with legal rights to seize seats on helicopters without notice, unlike the UK situation where advance notice is given to the operator for access, with all that implies. The operators, of course, prefer the UK system."

They said that while trade unions in the Norwegian sector had recognized union safety delegates on the rigs, the situation in the British sector was "really quite scandalous" with minimum union representation.

Although the obligation for

rig safety rests with the Health and Safety Executive, the work, by agreement, is actually done by the Department of Energy because of its acknowledged expertise and experience.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the transport union, said the disaster was bound to raise safety questions in an industry which hitherto had an excellent record.

He added: "Workers in this industry, vital to Britain's future, need to be assured that everything humanly possible is being done to guarantee their safety".

Mr John Prescott, Labour's energy spokesman, called for a full inquiry into the tragedy "with nothing barred and everything examined".

He said: "This industry spends less on safety training in relation to the money coming out of the industry than any other industry".



A survivor, his head swathed in bandages, is helped from a helicopter at Aberdeen; while medical staff at the hospital tend to another burns victim.

## Search for clues

## Experts to seek source of explosion

Engineers will attempt to land on the remains of the Piper Alpha platform as soon as possible to try to find out what caused the massive explosion.

They will try to trace the initial fuel for the explosion and its source of ignition. A sudden build-up in gas pressure in the oil flow lines could have caused a pipe fracture, with the gas being ignited by a spark or by an electric fault in the miles of cables which run through the platform.

However, Bechtel, the platform's designer, said yesterday it has no theories as to how the explosion occurred.

The platform was designed at Bechtel's west London offices and many who worked on the original project in the early 1970s are now giving Occidental what help they can to discover how the accident occurred.

Mr Jack Lauritsen of Bechtel, who was on the original design team, said: "I could not have imagined anything like this happening. There are so many things

involved in such a complex platform." Gas from the oil reservoir is treated in the platform. Natural gas liquids are drawn off and mixed with the crude oil. The gas is then compressed and sent 34 miles north to join the Elf Frigg pipeline which takes it to St Fergus.

Some of the gas is also re-injected into the reservoir to maintain pressure and only rarely, when wells are being redrilled or undergoing new testing, is gas flared off.

One theory is that a sudden surge of gas from a pocket in the reservoir could have caused a pipe leak. The fact that the control room computer printouts which record pressures in every valve and pipe on the platform have probably been destroyed in the explosion will make the investigating engineers task more difficult.

Because natural gas is odourless - British Gas add the smell at their treatment centres for safety reasons - none of the workers on the platform

would have noticed a build up, although in areas where gas leaks are likely automatic detectors are installed.

In the search for the cause of ignition, experts will have to investigate the risk posed by the cigarette smoking allowed in the accommodation quarters of Piper Alpha. Experts said yesterday that it was possible that a stray spark in the living quarters could have been sucked back into the compression unit, causing an explosion. The Rolls-Royce aero-engines used to pressurize the natural gas for delivery to shore are another possible source of ignition.

The tearing apart of the platform by the explosion was viewed with incredulity by many experts yesterday.

The jacket on which the platform stands is criss-crossed by a latticework of steel, to make it capable of withstanding the battering from the North Sea. However, it was disclosed that structural weaknesses of the jacket had led to it being strengthened with giant clamps.

## Counting the cost

## Insurance pay-outs set to total record \$1bn

The Piper platform disaster is likely to cost the insurance industry one billion dollars and lead to higher premiums being charged for other offshore installations in the future.

The platform was insured through London brokers Willis Faber, with the risk being placed throughout the world insurance markets. A company spokesman said yesterday: "This is probably going to be the largest loss on the North Sea."

"According to preliminary estimates, losses resulting from both physical damages and liabilities could total one billion dollars."

"It will be several days before an exact break-down of how liabilities are

spread and how much will have to be paid out for loss of life, physical damage, loss of oil output and potential pollution damage."

However, in the London insurance market it is being said that the disaster will inevitably lead to an increase in future insurance premiums for the industry.

Mr Philip Olsen, of brokers Kitcat & Aitken said: "There has been a significant reduction in premiums in the marine area because of overcapacity. A claim of this magnitude will have an impact on premium rates."

Mr Chris Fountain, an analyst at brokers County Nawest Woodmac, the oil industry specialists, said: "It will frighten off the competition and

push up premiums in the oil and energy businesses."

However, there are some in the oil industry who are already predicting that the Piper platform could be refurbished and back in production within a year.

If the 36 wells are intact and the jacket structure is undamaged, new production and accommodation modules could be fabricated and installed.

A long halt to production from Piper or any continued shutdown for the other fields in the pipeline network in the area could affect Britain's oil taxation revenues.

The complex provides about 15 per cent of the UK daily oil output and

provides between £500 and £700 million a year in oil taxation for the Government.

Although world oil prices are low at the moment, and unlikely to be affected by the disaster, according to oil traders, any increase in demand in the winter would mean a substantial loss in oil tax revenues.

The disaster has come at a time when fields are often closed down for overhaul and maintenance, so the effect of the loss of production from Piper will not be as acute as it would have been if the incident had occurred in the middle of winter, when demand for oil and more importantly natural gas is at its peak.

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engulfed in smoke. The flames were billowing above me. I felt my head being cooked.'

# It was fry and die, or jump and try

## Foreman lost six friends in inferno

A foreman paint blaster said yesterday he believed he had lost six colleagues as he and two friends ran through the flames on the Piper Alpha and jumped 100 ft into the sea to safety.

Mr Bill Lobban, aged 27, of Aberdeen, had burns to both hands and a fractured wrist. He was in deep shock as he told his story after a police debriefing at a hotel at Aberdeen airport.

Clutching the arm of his wife, Susan, whom he married four weeks ago, Mr Lobban said he had just finished watching a film with friends in the cinema in the accommodation section when there was a big explosion and panels fell in through the roof.

"Lights were coming down everywhere. I went downstairs to get some warm gear and a survival suit and we tried to find our way out of the section. There were a lot of flames and smoke and gradually it came into the accommodation section but we managed to find our way out and on to the pipe-deck."

"There were more explosions and the rig tilted to an angle of 30 degrees. It just suddenly dropped down at one side and the explosions continued all around us."

There were up to 20 workers in Mr Lobban's group trying to find an escape route through the flames. "It was just terrifying. I ran out when there was a lull in the flames and smoke because we knew this was our one chance. We could touch nothing on the deck because it was burning red hot. So we just ran to the edge and jumped straight into the water."

Mr Lobban said he grabbed a bit of wooden debris and then climbed onto the Tharos. He pulled his two friends, Mr Roy Thomson, of Keigh, Banffshire, and Mr Alec Wood, of Torphins, Deeside, to safety on the debris. However, he said he believed he had lost six colleagues.



Firemen and medical staff work together to help a survivor of the explosion being stretchered from the helicopter which rescued him from the North Sea.

## 'Men blasted clean off rig'

## Medical staff acted to plan

The foreman of a gang of oil rig painters working on rigs in the field described how he watched in horror as men died in the flames.

Mr John Maxwell, aged 50, of Belfast, who was aboard the fire-fighting supply ship, Tharos, when he heard the boom of the first explosion, said: "We realized right away it was serious and I ran out and saw flames shooting from the rig and a growing pool of smoke."

"After the first explosion there were a series of others and it was awful to watch the men trying to escape the flames. I saw a group of about six or seven men in survival suits on the rig's helicopter pad with flames all around them."

"They were screaming, shouting and waving for help and obviously thought they would be taken off more quickly if they stayed put."

"But then the whole of the rig was rocked by another



Mr John Maxwell, "a terrible thing to watch"

huge explosion and a kind of fireball shot across the helicopter pad and all of the men on it disappeared. I think the explosion would almost certainly have blasted them clean off the rig and they would have fallen about 200 ft into the sea.

"The fire-fighting ship I was on moved in closer and

blasted the flames with all its hoses, but it didn't seem to be doing any good and we all felt helpless watching the men desperately trying to get away. One of the worst sights was seeing about five lads climbing down from the derrick above the rig to try to escape then finding the heat too intense and having to climb frantically back to the top."

"They looked desperate and there was no way out for them. But they couldn't get down because of the flames and they couldn't climb any higher. Then all of a sudden everyone on the boat felt sick when there was yet another explosion and the derrick with the men on it were wiped out."

"I think we were all too shocked to cry. It was a terrible thing to watch. We could hardly bear it. Eventually, we could see the metal getting red hot and the whole of the structure began to buckle and cave in."

Dr Gordon Stone, community medicine specialist at Aberdeen, described how he activated the emergency plan.

Dr Stone, who has been in charge of the plan for a month, said it had been reviewed shortly before he took over.

He said: "On the basis of the information we had, we decided it was a major disaster before midnight and then alerted nursing, administrative and medical staff."

About 30 extra staff were called at home and 20 doctors worked throughout the night.

"We set up a control room next to the police control room and liaised closely with them. This helped us to ascertain what the pattern of patient in-put was likely to be."

Dr Stone arranged for Mr Alasdair Matheson, hospital consultant, to travel to the Tharos where an emergency hospital was set up with three anaesthetists and two junior doctors.



Mr Alasdair Matheson, consultant on the Tharos.

The off-shore emergency plan, as it is known, is practised twice a year. "One could not say it went totally perfectly. The patients' care could not be faulted. The bits that we could improve on were mainly to do with some of the support services", he said.

The Tharos, a £50 million support vessel, is one of the

most modern and sophisticated of its type.

The vessel entered service in 1979 and is owned 27.3 per cent by Occidental, 25 per cent by BP, 17.6 per cent by Texaco, 15 per cent by International Thomson and 15 per cent by Union Texas.

It is of a semi-submersible design, similar to many exploration drilling rigs, floating on two pontoons which can be flooded to improve stability. It has eight heavy anchors and can use its thruster propellers to dynamically position itself at a fixed point.

Sixteen high pressure fire monitors can pump tonnes of water per minute. It also carries a hydraulic gangway and two cranes, one able to lift 435 tonnes, to move equipment on or off a platform.

The Tharos has a fully equipped hospital which can handle 22 patients, with trained staff, and accommodation for another 300.

## The rescue operation

## Jumping is the only answer

The sophisticated escape and rescue systems on board all North Sea oil platforms are virtually useless in the event of an explosion such as the one which struck Piper Alpha, a leading safety expert said yesterday.

By law, all North Sea oil platforms must carry sufficient numbers of Totally Enclosed Motor-Propelled Survival Craft (TEMPSC), capable of carrying about 40 men.

However, in sudden catastrophes, they cannot be launched in time, according to Mr John Feather, training manager of the Offshore Survival Centre at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology

in Aberdeen, which trains about 13,000 platform workers a year in survival techniques.

"If you've got very little time, like after an explosion, you've just got to jump over the side", he said.

The centre teaches platform workers how to survive jumps into the sea, but in training those are from a height of only three metres, to reduce the risk of injury.

The men who jumped from Piper Alpha fell 10 times that distance and would have entered the water at more than 40 miles an hour.

Falls from such a height must be done cleanly, feet first, and with the hands

covering the mouth and nose. Water forced into the nose at such speed can damage the vagus nerve in the brain, leading to instant death.

Life jackets have to be carried rather than worn, to avoid the risk of neck injury on entering the water.

Once in the water, retaining body heat becomes vital. Any clothing that is not pulling the survivor down should be kept on, but no attempt should be made to swim to shore, as that greatly increases the rate of heat loss.

Those who managed to escape from the Piper Alpha platform by jumping the 30 metres into the sea faced burning oil on the sea surface



## Flames melted my hard hat

Mr Iain Letham, aged 27, an oil worker, of Muir of Ord, near Inverness, told how a huge blast threw him out of a rescue craft into the sea as he attempted to pick up survivors.

"I went in in an inflatable to try to pick up men under the platform when there was a huge explosion and I found myself in the water. The flames were so intense that they melted my hard hat as I swam for a boat and the plastic in my survival suit also began to soften."

"This will certainly prove to be the worst disaster I have ever been involved with. Even though the men were from all over Britain, it will have a profound effect on the Aberdeen community", he said.

and they have not yet described their feelings to me in de-briefings. But obviously they are deeply affected."

Mr Alan MacGregor, general manager of Bristow, said seven aircraft and 16 crew took part in the rescue.

"Our men are trained for these appalling eventualities

## Airport mortuary is set up again

A mortuary for the bodies was established in a building at Aberdeen airport owned by the Grampian regional council. Victims of the Chinook helicopter crash had been taken there 18 months ago.

It stands next to the premises of British International Helicopters and Bristow Helicopters, whose crew worked alongside military personnel and spent several hours ferrying survivors to shore yesterday.

Both companies had ferried

oil workers to the Piper Alpha on Tuesday morning in what was a regular run every few days. British International used six helicopters with 20 crew.

Mr Robert McQueen, the company's general manager, said he was in deep shock. "But I am in no position to say how this will affect future production in the North Sea. Only Occidental will know that."

"Our men are trained for these appalling eventualities

## City accustomed to grief

## A high price to pay for Texas Gold

Aberdeen is the granite city, architecturally and spiritually. Yesterday it seemed an appropriate complex for a place obliged to confront another disaster close to its shores.

Before the discovery of oil it was the fishing fleet and lifeboats which more regularly came to grief in the North Sea as men struggled to eke a living. Now, Texas Gold has become the prize for risking life. Throughout the city yesterday people spoke of "the price", knowing full well that oil costs dear — this time it has cost lives.

Flags flew at half-mast but there was a tangible, philosophic aspect to the city which is only just recovering from the loss of its men 18 months ago when a Chinook helicopter crashed off the Shetland Isles.

Survivors at the Royal Infirmary spoke movingly of the horror on board the Piper Alpha but there were not many

who would unequivocally say they would not return to the rigs.

Those emerging from police debriefings, relatively unharmed and radiant in their survival, were almost brutally honest in their intention to start work again with any oil company, including Occidental, as soon as possible. They spoke of mortgages, children, £400 a week. After a decent interval, there was a feeling that most would soon prepare to risk "the price" again.

Mr Frank Doran, MP for Aberdeen South, highlighted some concerns about the safety record of the Piper Alpha, which many men stepping off Bristow yesterday echoed. Most refused to be named, perhaps in case their concern about the rigs evaporated in the face of high wages.

But Mr Doran pressed his point. He said he wanted to know if there might be a link between the explosion four years

ago on the Piper Alpha and the disaster on Tuesday night. An inquiry will be held but Aberdeen did not seem in the mood yesterday to abandon its livelihood in the face of the risks.

Mr Alex Salmond, the Scottish National MP for Banff and Buchan and the party's energy spokesman, echoed the thoughts of the city when he said the disaster reflected the human cost of gathering the wealth of the North Sea.

In the annals, there are probably many similar epithets after fishing disasters in the last century but the fishing industry was obliged to continue and hoped.

In yesterday's sunshine, a similar spirit existed when a makeshift mortuary in a building at the airport provided a sanctuary for the many corpses.

Yesterday left a bitter taste in the city but it has tasted austerity before and emerged, with some sense of growth, to rebuild.

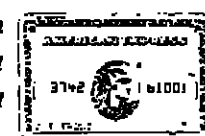
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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Drive to reduce thefts from cars

The Government is about to launch an important initiative to stem the soaring growth of thefts from cars in a move designed to secure a drop in the crime figures. Ministers are urging insurance companies to grant preferential rates to car-owners who make special efforts to protect their vehicles against burglary and to penalize people who fail to lock their cars by reducing their payouts. Insurers are already offering a similar deal to householders with burglar alarms.

Ministers say that without last year's 12 per cent rise in thefts from cars, there would have been a big reduction in the crime figures.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, has already had talks with insurance companies and will make a speech within the next few weeks setting out the ideas in greater detail. He said yesterday: "Insurance companies are in the front-line against crime. These ideas would benefit them and the fight against crime."

## Judge orders acquittal

Four youths were acquitted yesterday at Knightsbridge Crown Court on the direction of the judge of conspiring to commit robbery during the "steaming" of a London Underground train. He said that because of identification problems the charges against Solomon O'Korefe, aged 17, Michael James, also 17, Michael Brown, aged 18 and Andre Lee, aged 17, could not be proved. The judge told the jury to return not guilty verdicts. Some charges were ordered to lie on the files after the prosecution had earlier decided to proceed on the conspiracy charges alone.

## Police pay-out

The family of Blair Peach, the New Zealand teacher killed during an anti-National Front demonstration in Southall, west London, in 1979, accepted £75,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police yesterday after allegations that he had been killed by a blow from a police truncheon. Ever since, his family has fought for a ruling that a police officer was responsible for the killing. In a statement yesterday the Metropolitan Police said the offer did not imply any admission of liability and was in an attempt to "bring this tragic incident to a fair and reasonable conclusion".

## Public drinking ban

Coventry got the go-ahead yesterday for an experimental by-law banning the drinking of alcohol in designated public places in the city centre. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, announced his agreement to a pilot project in the city in the autumn. Bath council is considering the Coventry approach, initiated by the Coventry Alcohol Related Crime Project. Bath's civic leaders are concerned that untrained drinking in the streets damages its image as a tourist centre. The maximum penalty for contravention of the by-law will be a £100 fine.

## Satellite sport

Sky Television, owned by News International, publishers of *The Times*, will broadcast a 24-hour sports service from a fourth transponder on the Asia satellite under a 10-year leasing agreement with British Telecom International to be signed today. The sports service, which will cover most sports from athletics to winter sports but not British soccer, will probably be provided by Eurosport, a company formed by News International and a consortium of European Broadcasting Union members. If the Eurosport plan falls through, a separate Sky Sports channel will be set up.

## Sponsorship dilemma

A report published today throws into question the effectiveness of business sponsorship of the arts as a marketing device. Research carried out for Mintel by the British Market Research Bureau shows that the public is slow to make the link between commercial companies and the art forms they sponsor. IBM, NatWest and Barclay's all have sizeable classical music programmes but are recognized as music sponsors by between only 5-6 per cent of those polled.

Sports sponsorship, page 35

Ridley toughens policy on local government finance  
Poll tax curbs on council borrowing

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

A dramatic change of policy to tighten control over local government finance in the run-up to the introduction of the community charge was announced by the Government yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a surprise statement to MPs after a Cabinet local government finance committee meeting on Wednesday night, said the Government would in future control the amounts that councils borrow rather than concentrating on their expenditure.

The aim was to wipe out ingenious forms of leasebacks, deferred purchase and other extended credit schemes which have enabled councils to defy the Government's spending restrictions and which have seen some pile up big debts to be serviced by community charge payers.

Mr Ridley told MPs that local authorities had accumulated £45 billion in debts, which was costing ratepayers £6 billion a year to service.

A consultation paper issued yesterday proposes that from April 1990 councils will be forced to use 75 per cent of their accumulated receipts from council house sales for debt redemption or future capital commitments. They will be free to spend the 25 per cent balance as they like.

At present, councils can spend only 20 per cent of council house sale receipts. On other receipts, councils will be allowed to spend up to 50 per cent as they wish, compared with the present limit of 30 per cent.

Mr Ridley told MPs that the Government would bring forward legislation as soon as possible to alter the basis on which grants are paid in England and Wales.

In the past, local authorities have been able to alter the figures for their spending in supplementary reports for up to three years after the expenditure has been incurred, increasing the amount spent and gaining extra grants.

Under a "rough justice" measure, that practice is to be stopped. Local authorities will only be able to include expenditure in the past three years of which the Department of the Environment had been informed by midnight on Wednesday.

Grant payments for individual local authorities in 1989-90 will be calculated on the basis of the new legislation. As before, they will take into account grant related expenditure assessments and block grant mechanisms.

However, Mr Ridley said the figures would be based "not on authorities' reported total expenditure but on a figure derived from

each authority based on information about their present levels of total expenditure and projected forward". Allowance will be made for changes in function.

He said the arrangements would give councils greater certainty about their rate support grant entitlements for 1989-90 and previous years and would bring the old system to a close on an orderly basis. Without the change, there would have been recalculations well into the 1990s. The last supplementary reports will now be made during 1989-90.

Mr Ridley also announced the level of permitted local authority current expenditure for England next year at £29,140 million. He said that was 4.7 per cent, or £1.3 billion, more than local authorities' budgets for the current year, after deducting the costs of polytechnics, which from next April will be a charge on central government.

The sum is slightly more than the expected level of inflation and includes £110 million for the extra costs of preparing to introduce the community charge. The central government contribution of about half is to be £13,575 billion, which is about £1.1 billion more than the grant to be paid for 1988-89.

Mr Ridley said that if spending was held steady then the increase in rates next year should be less than the rate of inflation.

He told MPs that seven high-spending local authorities will be rate-capped for a second year. They are Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Thamesdown, all in London.

MPs saw the moves as a triumph for the Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and for Mr Ridley over Department of Environment officials who have resisted some of the measures.

Parliament, page 19

## Riverside development marks return to classics



Mr Terry, the architect, in the gardens of the classical Richmond Riverside development with the results of his design (Photograph: Bryn Colton).

By Christopher Warran  
Property Correspondent

The £20 million Richmond Riverside development beside the Thames at Richmond Bridge, Surrey, is controversial not because the buildings are unacceptably modern but because they are traditional and classical. They are the work of Mr Quincy Terry, who has designed the scheme to echo the scale and character of some of the existing buildings in the scheme.

The development includes offices, shops, restaurants and 28 flats and has involved the restoration of Richmond's Victorian Old Town Hall.

Launching the scheme, Mr Terry explained that it included revolutionary features which were in fact following the practices of the Georgian and Victorian builders. "The lesson we have to learn is that if we want to put up buildings which are going to last for our grandchildren we will have to build as our forefathers did."

## Fears for oceanographic research

## Anger at state funding cuts

By Anatol Lieven

British and international scientists are predicting severe damage to oceanographic research in Britain as a result of cuts in state funding.

They point out that this field of science was pioneered in Britain, and is of crucial importance to the understanding of such weather changes as the "greenhouse effect".

The Institute of Professional Civil Servants has

called the cuts "muddled, unnecessary and deeply damaging to science".

The Natural Environment Research Council met yesterday to discuss staff cuts, but it will be making no statement until Tuesday.

The cuts are expected to follow closely the recommendations of the council's finance and general purpose committee, which met on June 24. It said 164 posts would have to be lost.

The reason for the cuts is a reduction of about £2.5 million over the past three years in the grant to the council from the Department of Education and Science.

About 60 of the 200 staff at the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences at Wormley, Surrey, are expected to lose their jobs.

Scientists at Wormley say the proposed cuts will make Britain's contribution to the project minimal.

## British Medical Association

## Doctors in pesticides check

The dangers of pesticide poisoning are to be investigated after doctors expressed fears yesterday that it could be causing serious health problems. The British Medical Association investigation will also investigate doses of toxic chemicals which could be eaten daily in fruit and vegetables.

A Leicester GP, Dr John Inman, told the BMA's annual meeting in Norwich that last year more than 26 million

kilos of pure pesticides were used in Britain. "A billion gallons of formulated pesticides were sprayed on British crops and streets, railway lines, parks and of course, gardens", he said.

The effects of drugs were closely checked "but there is no central organization collating statistics on pesticide poisonings", he added.

However, a recent study showed that of 171 patients attending an allergy clinic,

nearly half were sensitive to pesticides and nearly 20 per cent had blood levels containing more than one pesticide.

Doctors should boycott boxing matches, making it impossible for them to take place, the BMA said yesterday. The call is its strongest yet in a four-year campaign to have the sport banned. Present British Boxing Board of Control rules require a doctor to be present at all fights.

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## Telecom to freeze charges for a year

By Mark Ellis

British Telecom is to freeze most of its charges until August next year.

It will also introduce lower standing charges to benefit the elderly and the disabled under an agreement with the Office of Telecommunications, the watchdog body.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, OfTel's director general, yesterday announced a four-year deal on charges. He said it tightened the existing rules and was won after "tough negotiations".

The deal will fix Telecom's average prices at 4.5 per cent below the general inflation rate, instead of the current 3 per cent, from August 1989 and will mean reduced costs for customers if the inflation rate is less than 4.5 per cent.

Most customers will face an increase in the quarterly standing charge, as Telecom says the present rate does not cover related costs, but that should be more than offset during the next five years by reductions in call charges.

Professor Carsberg said Telecom had not finalized its plans for reduced standing charges for customers making relatively few calls, but they would include line rentals of about £8 instead of £13 —

## Desert death trip husband criticized

Verdicts of accidental death were recorded yesterday on Mrs Jennifer Coombes and her sons, Gregory, aged 10, and Andrew, aged 7, who died in the Tunisian Sahara last month after their hired car became trapped in sand.

Mr Alan Coombes, her husband, aged 36, from Longstanton, Cambridgeshire, who was found on a tractor after he had wandered for 48 hours seeking help, was criticized by the East Sussex coroner, Mr David Wadman.

The coroner said that Mr Coombes had gone totally unprepared into a barren countryside which had no hint of protection.

It was something he would have to live with for the rest of his life, although recriminations would achieve nothing.

The drive in a hired Peugeot 205 car was not a trip to the countryside in Sussex. Tragically the family had separated: Mr Coombes walking towards the town of Douz and his wife and sons walking back to their car.

They never reached it, Mr Wadman said. He said Mr Coombes had been very lucky himself to be found alive.

Mr Coombes said he had set

out to drive from the Tunisian town of Matmata to Douz. There were three routes on the map and in retrospect he had probably picked the worst.

It had not been his intention to travel into the heart of the Sahara and it was an outrage to suggest that was what he had been doing. The area he had been using just faded away into sand.

He said he had tried to lift the two-wheeled drive car from the sand with an aid door he had found but had failed.

After the car became stuck the family walked together for an hour and then separated.

He told the coroner: "Yes I now realize that this was a mistake and we should have all stayed together."

He said they had a fire and a half of water between all four of them and he had taken it with him mistakenly thinking his wife and sons would find water in a tower he had seen. In the event it was dry.

He said at one stage he had spent all night under a rock sheltering from a sandstorm and at one time he had wished he would fall asleep and never wake up again.

## Battery that just won't die kills jobs

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Duracell's long-life batteries are lasting so long that the company is having to close one of its factories with the loss of 350 jobs.

The plant in Crawley, West Sussex, which manufactures specialist power packs for calculators, watches and hearing aids, will close at the end of next month. Mr John Siddall, director of manufacturing for Duracell Europe, said: "These batteries have an extraordinarily long life and require infrequent replacement in consumer products that have themselves reached market saturation."

A company spokesman added that because of the length of the batteries' lifespan sales growth was slow. "These small cells in watches or calculators last a very long time and seldom need changing and therefore the factory was not running efficiently", he said.

Other factories in Europe were also making the specialist cells and the company would concentrate manufacture of these products there. He

emphasized that Duracell's normal alkaline batteries would still be produced at factories in Crawley.

Local union officials last night described the closure as a "body blow". Mr John Schooling, Croydon district secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "What they are saying is that another bit of British industry has gone down the chute and we will now be buying them in from abroad."

Mr Schooling said that he and his officials were only told of the plan two days ago. "We knew the company had plans for production changes, but we did not expect the loss of an entire factory and 350 jobs in our wildest dreams."

Mr Schooling said the financial settlements proposed by the company were "reasonable", but most of those losing jobs would not find another. The whole matter was cut and dried and there would not be a fight over the closure.

Mr Siddall said Duracell had been restructuring its European operations

during the past two years to create a more streamlined organization. Sales revenue in that period had increased by more than 40 per cent.

He said the company intended to become the world's leading battery maker and that could only be achieved if it remained cost-effective in a highly competitive market.

Mr Siddall said that "unfortunately" restructuring of the part of the company had in mind could not be done painlessly. But Duracell had developed a comprehensive redundancy programme, which would include retraining within the company, professional counselling and out-placement services to help employees find work.

Duracell, which has been in Crawley since 1961, employs 3,500 people in Europe, including £200 in the UK. The company last night said that its core business of consumer alkaline batteries increased sales worldwide by 20 per cent in the first four months of this year, compared with the same period in 1987.



# Couple sue doctors for damages after child abuse inquiry

By Peter Davenport

Writs claiming aggravated damages were issued yesterday against the two consultants paediatricians at the centre of the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis.

The legal action against Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt was launched on behalf of a Middlesbrough couple and their three daughters.

The couple are seeking damages for "injury, distress, anxiety, loss and expense by reason of a negligent diagnosis."

The writs, lodged with the district registrar of the High Court in Middlesbrough, also allege that the children, now aged one, three and seven years, were sexually assaulted by the doctors during examinations on June 12 and 13 last year.

Solicitors acting for the family also issued a writ against Cleveland County Council for alleged negligence by its social services department by obtaining place of safety orders to take the children into care. The parents won their children back at a wardship hearing in Leeds in November.

Yesterday Mr Donald

O'Rourke, a partner in the Middlesbrough firm of solicitors acting for the couple, and 11 other families caught up in the crisis, said: "This is a test case and the other 11 families are waiting in the wings. We are seeking substantial damages."

He also announced that a "fighting fund" to help families pay for legal actions was being launched after offers of financial assistance from individuals and companies.

A Cleveland couple whose two daughters, aged two years and seven months, were taken away after a diagnosis of sexual abuse by Dr Wyatt, issued writs on Monday. The children were returned home after seven weeks and a judge later awarded costs against Cleveland County Council.

The couple are seeking damages against Dr Wyatt for medical negligence and against Cleveland County Council for breach of its statutory duty.

A committee of five members of the Northern Regional Health Authority are to decide if the two consultants should face any disciplinary action. Its members will be a doctor, a solicitor, a retired business-

man, the chairman of the authority, Sir Bernard Tomlinson, and his deputy.

It is acknowledged within the authority that they face a difficult situation. If it is decided that no disciplinary action is merited then there may well be demands from Dr Higgs and other professionals on her behalf that she be allowed to return to her duties in Middlesbrough.

Dr Liam Donaldson, the regional medical officer, said: "In this situation we have two individuals who are known to be highly competent. But there has been the suggestion that they could be highly competent in their general practice and in one narrow field allegations have been made about their incompetence. It is almost a unique situation."

Until the authority reaches a decision the two doctors will remain in the posts to which they were assigned after the end of the inquiry in January.

Dr Higgs at a neo-natology unit in Newcastle upon Tyne and Dr Wyatt at the Middlesbrough General Hospital. Both are forbidden to handle any cases of suspected child sexual abuse.

Barbara Amiel, page 17

## A touch of music from Aladdin's cave



Two police constables trying out their musical talent on violins on display in a large warehouse at the Old Wembley police station, north London. They form part of an Aladdin's cave of stolen antiques worth £1 million -

the biggest collection recovered by Scotland Yard in recent years. Police are inviting burglary victims to claim their property from among the record haul of 3,000 items, including musical instruments, paintings, furniture,

clocks, silver, jewellery, a collection of broken cameras and even an elephant's foot. The antiques were stolen in at least 50 burglaries, mostly in London and the Home Counties, but also in the Midlands, over several

years and were recovered in raids on 14 warehouses, antique shops and private addresses in north London last month. The items will be on display to the public until July 17. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

## Parents battle for children's charter

By Ian Smith

Distraught parents yesterday urged immediate government adoption of recommendations for new child protection measures proposed by the Butler-Sloss Cleveland inquiry. They want a review of the cases of 96 children diagnosed as sexual abuse victims in Leeds.

Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, will today receive a request from the Leeds and Bradford Children and Parents Support Group that local social service directors be ordered to review each of the cases using guidelines called for by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss.

Parents who have come under suspicion believe that what they see as a futuristic child protection charter must take seriously the views expressed by the affected children.

In her report Lord Justice Butler-Sloss says a danger exists in looking towards the welfare of children believed to be victims of sexual abuse, the children themselves

may be overlooked.

Organizers of the Leeds and Bradford child and parents' support group claim unfair and emotionally traumatic separation of young children from mothers and fathers has already passed the crisis point at which the Butler-Sloss inquiry was ordered in Cleveland.

Mrs Penelope Brooke, founder of the support group, said: "We applaud the recognition by the inquiry panel that the wishes of children are paramount, that nothing is more important than protecting their physical and emotional well-being and allowing them to express their wishes."

In almost every case investigated by the support group, she said, the wishes of children were ignored.

Allegations levelled by dozens of parents are that their children, aged between three and 15, have confirmed being sexual abuse victims only under duress exerted by social workers.

## Referrals double in county

By Craig Seton

Significant increases in the number of children on sex abuse registers in the West Midlands were reported yesterday.

More than 900 children are on the registers of 11 local authorities, including Hereford and Worcester County Council, which reported a "staggering" increase.

The number of sex abuse referrals in Hereford and Worcester in the first six months of this year is running at about the double last year's rate.

The council reported 103 referrals involving 138 children in the past six months.

Mr Laurie Gregory, the county council's social services director of operations, said: "We owe a debt to Cleveland. One of the recommendations of the Cleveland report is that social services departments should create specialist assessment teams, and that is what we did last summer."

## Chaos feared after High Court ruling

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Children and teachers faced chaos yesterday when the High Court blocked the merger of two Derbyshire schools after protests from parents.

A new head and staff have been appointed for the merged school due to open in September and many of the old staff have taken other jobs or early retirement.

Derbyshire County Council may appeal against Lord Justice Watkins' ruling. It overturns the decision of Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to allow the merger of Ilkeston and Canteloupe schools and switch Ilkeston's senior pupils to a new sixth-form college.

Both comprehensive schools will have to open in September and council officials were contacting newly appointed teachers yesterday to discuss their next moves. Building contracts worth £130,000 had been signed for work to extend Ilkeston School.

It is unlikely the Department of Education and Science will appeal but the council will make its decision after Lord Justice Watkins, who was sitting with Mr Justice McNeill, publishes the reasons for the ruling later this month.

A group of parents from Ilkeston School, led by Mr Norman Hardy, aged

41, an unemployed driver, had argued that the merger would restrict parental choice.

The court granted Mr Hardy a declaration that Mr Baker's original decision 12 months ago to block the merger was valid. Parents had complained that administrative chaos in his department had led the minister to make an unlawful U-turn based on inept legal advice.

A three-day hearing was told that families had been subjected to a reorganization nightmare. Mr Stephen Sedley, QC, for the parents, said it was a story of administrative chaos which might have formed the basis of an episode of *Yes, Minister* had Franz Kafka been the guest scriptwriter.

He described how an official from the department made an unauthorized telephone call to the county council in June last year saying that the merger plans had been approved. The news was leaked and Mr Peter Rost, the Conservative MP for Erewash, "raised Cain" with Mr Baker, who then announced that the proposals had not been approved.

Department of Education lawyers advised that the unauthorized telephone call constituted a legally-binding

decision to approve the merger. It became clear that the department considered the proposals to be sound and would not object to them on educational grounds.

Mr Hardy, whose son Simon, aged 13, goes to Ilkeston School, said he was delighted by the court's decision.

Mr Geoffrey Lennox, chairman of Derbyshire County Council education committee, said: "The decision is a tragedy for most young people in the area. They will be disadvantaged to a degree which is bound to make most parents extremely angry. A handful of parents have ensured that the education of the vast majority of children will suffer."

Mr Rost said: "Any difficulties that are faced in September will be wholly due to the council's own mismanagement. This is game, set and match to the parents who were determined that sixth form education should be maintained in Ilkeston."

● The local government Ombudsman yesterday condemned Derbyshire County Council's refusal to refund fees paid by parents for sixth-form geography field trips undertaken as part of A level courses.

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Holiday windfall

Two of the three winners of yesterday's daily Portfolio prize of £4000 will use their share of the money to go on holiday.

Mr E. Stadins, an engineer storekeeper of Hounslow, west London, will be putting the money towards a holiday in Austria, where his wife has relatives.

Mr Peter White, from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was so surprised at his win that he asked his wife to check his number a couple of times. "My wife and I will use most of our winnings to take a holiday in the West Country. We have recently had two bereavements in our family, and the money will allow us to get away and relax."

The third winner, Mr J.A. Nolan, lives in Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

## Weekend food prices

## Price rises ahead after US drought

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Pork, bacon, poultry and eggs are all expected to cost more in the shops this summer as a result of the drought in the United States, which is pushing up the price of feed. The most seriously affected crop is soy, which is the most important protein element in animal feedstuffs, and the shortage is having a knock-on effect.

Mr Connaught French, chairman of the National Farmers' Union's north east regional poultry committee, said that some poultry farmers were facing bankruptcy.

Those who believed that the failure of the American harvest was a convenient way of reducing the world's grain mountains had forgotten how heavily dependent the intensive livestock industry in Britain was on imported feed ingredients, he said.

The NFU in London said that much depended on whether producers could raise their prices to meet higher costs. Increased feed prices had unfortunately coincided with a cyclical oversupply of some products, notably eggs, which provided little opportu-

nity to pass the extra costs on to the consumer.

Meanwhile, home produced lamb is a real bargain with the average price of whole leg down to £1.85 a lb, whole shoulder £1.08 and loin chops £2.23 a lb. At Sainsbury's, whole leg is down to £1.48 a lb.

The average price of fillet steak is now £5.71 in the South-east and £5.15 in the rest of England and Wales. Rump steak is an average £3.26 a lb, but Tesco have a special offer of £2.69 a lb.

There is a wide choice of fresh fish although there may be a slight price increase. Plaice fillets (6-8oz) are selling at around £2.80 a lb. Coley is about £1.10 a lb. Haddock is £2.50 a lb, and lemon sole and skate wings, £2.30 a lb. Whole whiting is around £1.20 while trout at £1.85 a lb is a good buy.

Summer fruit is becoming more plentiful. Strawberries are now 40-75p a half pound, and raspberries 50-70p a quarter pound; gooseberries 45-60p a lb. Best salad ingredients are lettuce from 17-75p a head with hothouse tomatoes at 35-55p, a lb.

## Contempt test case opens

## Editors in court over killer's plea

The Attorney-General yesterday asked the High Court to jail or fine two editors for contempt in publishing articles about a convicted sex killer's unsuccessful plea to be released from a mental hospital.

The *Daily Mail* and the *Liverpool Echo* were accused of contempt of a Mental Health Review Tribunal, due to hear an application by Peter Pickering for discharge from Park Lane Hospital, Liverpool, in 1985.

The articles referred to opposition from ministers and MPs and to the backing allegedly given to Pickering by hospital bosses. Mr John Mummery, counsel for the Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, said they posed a risk of serious prejudice.

Sir David English, editor of the *Daily Mail*, and Christopher Oakley, of the *Echo*, deny the charge.

Mr Mummery told Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Henry that Pickering, now in his 50s, was convicted of the manslaughter in 1972 of a girl aged 14 and sent to Broadmoor.

● Newspapers which publish any unauthorized disclosure

of information from the EEC will be open to prosecution under the Government's proposed reform of official secrecy, even if such information is available elsewhere in the community, Mr Richard Shepherd, Tory MP for Aldridge, Brownhills, said yesterday at a Campaign for the Freedom of Information meeting.

Mr Shepherd said: "Every other European citizen would know but us."

The *Sunday Sport* newspaper was yesterday reported to the Press Council by the West Somerset coroner, Mr Michael Rose, after he recorded an open verdict on Adam Summerscales, aged 15, of Hillfarrance, near Taunton, Somerset. The youth, who suffered from a rare medical condition which caused excessive body hair, died from shotgun wounds. Mr Rose called the paper's news editor, Mr Howard Soumes, before him. The coroner said he was concerned about reporting of the matter by the *Sunday Sport*.

He was given an undertaking that the newspaper would abide by the Press Council's decision.

## Free-flight voucher plan for shoppers

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Motorists and shoppers will soon have a chance to collect vouchers towards free flights on British Airways.

Up to 100 leading retail chains and garages are expected to take part in the scheme which will be launched in November and will provide collectors with free air tickets for the airline's world network equivalent to the number of vouchers they have amassed.

Mr Keith Mills, an advertising executive, came up with the idea of offering air tickets as a reward to shoppers last year and he immediately approached British Airways. It was so impressed by the potential for filling its empty seats, that it decided to become a partner in a company set up to market the idea, called Air Miles, of which Mr Mills is managing director.

The partners yesterday outlined the scheme to 80 executives from travel agents, retailers and service industries at a presentation in Bordeaux. The airline is confident that when the scheme is launched in November at least 10,000

shops and petrol stations will be involved and a billion vouchers will be in circulation.

British Airways will sell its cheapest tickets to Air Miles which will sell them to the retail organizations taking part in the scheme. The retailers will advertise the fact that customers will be able to save towards the cost of their holiday when buying their petrol, furniture and other goods.

The customer will be given a mileage chart showing the length of every journey in the BA network and will be able to calculate how many vouchers are needed for any journey. Once the required number of vouchers has been collected they can be redeemed at any travel agent taking part in the promotion.

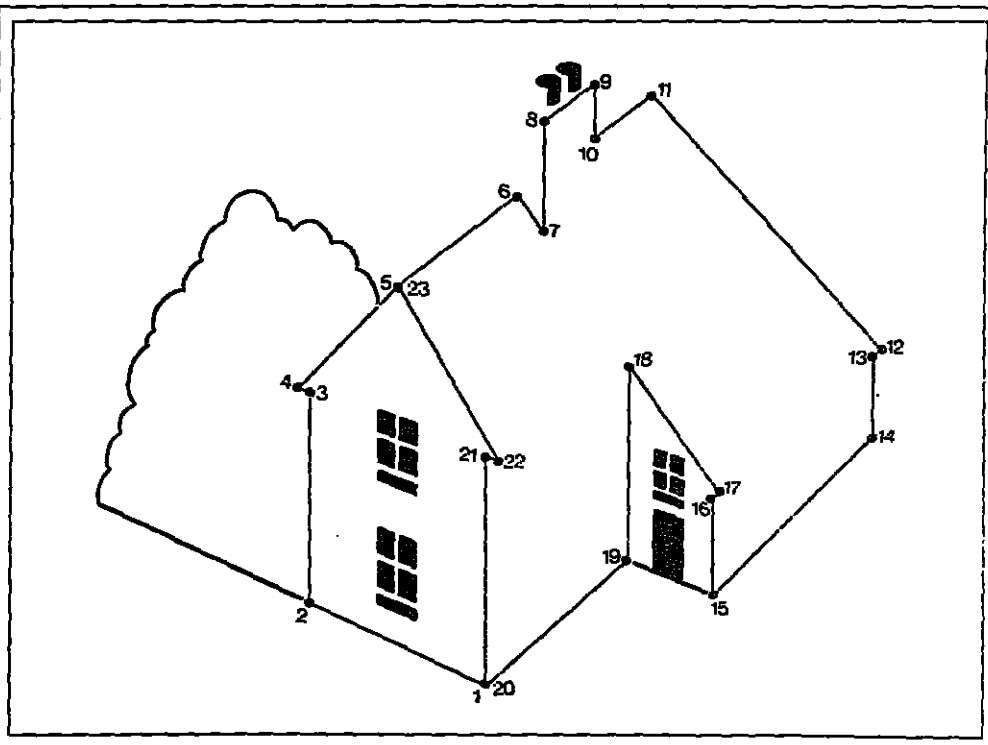
One catch is that British Airways will always give priority to full fare paying passengers and if, as it expects, the scheme is a big success, tickets will only be available on flights with spare seats.

The scheme could also prove very expensive, particularly for the motorist.

Final details of how many vouchers will be needed for a particular flight have yet to be worked out, but one idea is to allow one mile for every £5 worth of petrol bought. As Paris is 219 miles away it would require 438 vouchers, or £2,190 worth of petrol to qualify for a free return trip.

However, anyone buying a three piece suite from a furniture store taking part in the scheme could obtain a free trip for just one purchase. Package holiday-makers travelling with Poundstretcher, Speedbird, Enterprise, Sovereign and Sunmed - all operated by BA subsidiaries - will also be able to use the vouchers to offset some of the cost.

An Air Miles spokesman said last night that as no retailer has yet been signed up it was impossible to say what level of incentive would be set. "It will be a matter of balance between making it attractive and yet not so attractive that they cannot supply the number of people collecting", she said.



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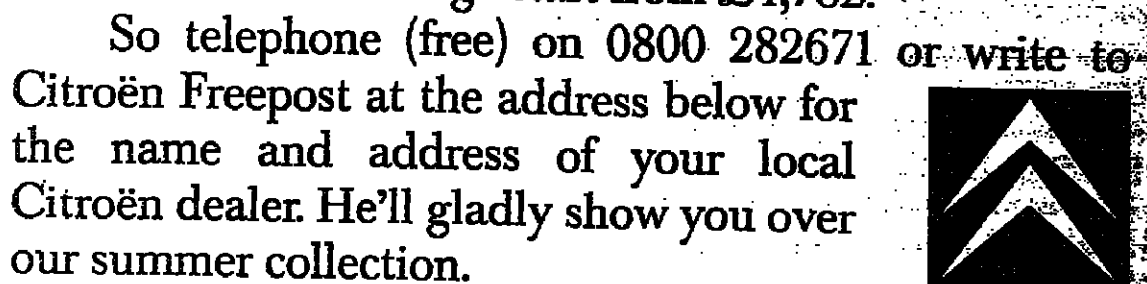
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## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Mystery death case reopened

Washington — Police in Seattle are reopening an investigation into the mysterious death in 1968 of the wife of Mr. Mary Lou Paisley, the central figure in the Pentagon contract bribes scandal. Police said there were "several inconsistencies" between statements of witnesses and post-mortem examination reports (Michael Binyon writes).

## Yerevan at standstill

Moscow — The standstill in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, continued yesterday, despite an appeal by the republic's Prime Minister for a return to work (Mary Dejevsky writes). Reports from the city said that militia were patrolling the streets and the central Opera Square was cordoned off.

Earlier, an Armenian official disclosed that one demonstrator had been killed by a plastic bullet on Tuesday. He said the incident took place on the main road to the airport, but not during the violent clashes which followed the eviction of demonstrators from the airport terminal.

The strikes and demonstrations are in support of the demand from the predominantly Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan to be transferred to Armenia.

## Flight misery spreads

Industrial action is continuing to severely disrupt air traffic in Italy and Spain (Our Foreign Staff writes). A work-to-rule by Italian customs officials is particularly affecting Rome's Fiumicino airport, both for cargo and passenger flights. On Wednesday, 16 domestic and 12 international flights were cancelled, and although there was some improvement yesterday there were still 32 delays of at least one hour before lunchtime, with hold-ups of several days for cargo.

From Madrid it was reported that Spanish air traffic delays were expected to increase during the last two weeks of this month as a result of plans by Iberia Airlines personnel for intermittent strikes in pursuit of improved benefits.

## Arafat men defeated

Beirut (Reuters) — Pro-Syrian Palestinians of the Abu Musa faction said yesterday that they had won control of a Beirut refugee camp from guerrillas loyal to Mr. Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Only a few pockets of resistance remained in Bourj el-Barajneh camp near Beirut airport, the PLO's last stronghold in the Lebanese capital.

Independent Palestinian sources confirmed that the Abu Musa guerrillas had made significant gains in a four-hour attack supported by artillery fire. They said that Mr. Arafat's men had begun negotiations with Syria and its Palestinian allies on their safe withdrawal. Arafat supporters were driven from the Chatila camp near by last month.

## Rebuff for Reagan

Washington — In a sharp rebuff to the Reagan Administration, the Senate voted yesterday to require companies to give their employees 60 days notice before closing factories or ordering widespread layoffs (Michael Binyon writes).

The vote, by 72-23, points to a likely Senate override of the veto expected to be issued by President Reagan, who strongly opposed it as unwarranted government interference in business. The House of Representatives is also expected to approve the Bill by a wide margin next week.

The plant-closing provision is the most important piece of legislation this year for American trade unions, and is strongly backed by Democrats, who see it as a vote-winner and plan to make it an election issue.

## Tokyo stock controversy

## Takeshita's aide named in scandal

From Brian Robbins  
Tokyo

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Noboru Takeshita, is facing his first serious political setback in the wake of an extensive stock trading scandal which developed here this week.

The scandal, involving several senior Japanese politicians, including prime ministerial hopefuls, broadened yesterday to include Mr. Takeshita's secretary.

The affair is the worst since the time of Mr. Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister. It has already spread to the staff of another former Prime Minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, the present Fi-



Mr. Takeshita: Setback to planned tax reforms.

nance Minister, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, and the Secretary-General of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Mr. Shin-aro Abe.

A number of other senior Liberal Democratic Party members have been named.

In all cases the secretary to the minister or politician concerned has been implicated rather than the politician himself. In Japan is responsible for handling all donations which are carried out on behalf of the politician.

In each case in this affair, the politician bought shares in a property development company, Recruit Cosmos, in 1984, paying about 1,000 yen (some £4.40) a share.

The company went public in October 1986, and the shares were then sold for more than 5,000 yen each, giving the politicians a sizeable profit.

No firm estimates are available at this stage of the number of shares allocated to each politician, though in some cases profits of more than 20 million yen were made. In the short term the scam-

dal has threatened to throw off course plans by Mr. Takeshita to complete a thorough overhaul of Japan's taxation system, which includes introducing a controversial 3 per cent consumption tax.

Even though reforming Japan's taxation system is fraught with political difficulties — two previous attempts have failed — Mr. Takeshita's electoral popularity was thought sufficient to give him an excellent chance to pursue the reform successfully this time around.

Now that is in doubt. The Diet (Parliament) was to have discussed the tax reform issue at an extraordinary session scheduled to start next Monday. That has now been deferred indefinitely.

There is no suggestion whatever that Mr. Takeshita, or any other senior government official, intends resigning over the scandal at this stage.

Mr. Takeshita refuses to take any personal responsibility for the involvement of his secretary. He has also refrained from giving any details of his secretary's involvement, stating: "I was told not to mention them. I cannot say who asked him to buy (the stock). I also cannot say how the money earned from the stock sales was used."

Others involved, such as Mr. Nakasone and Mr. Miyazawa, either could not be contacted or refused to comment on the affair.

Details of the scandal first began to emerge earlier this year. Now it has emerged that during 1984 several senior politicians were also offered stock. In some cases Recruit Cosmos lent them funds so that they could conclude the transactions.

By buying the stock in Recruit Cosmos two years before it went public they have avoided any illegality, though there is still the unresolved question of potential tax liabilities.

The scandal has resulted in the resignation of the president of Recruit Cosmos, Mr. Hiromasa Ezoe, as well as of Mr. Ko Morita, president of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, publishers of Japan's respected economic daily newspaper. Mr. Ezoe from university days, breached company policy by trading in shares.

In both cases they will continue as advisers to their respective companies.

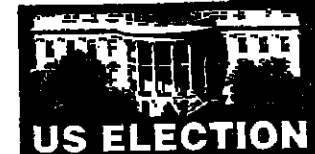
## Dukakis takes heart in Hellenic comfort

From Charles Bremner  
Boston

Boston's best-loved conservative kissed the archbishop, cracked a few jokes in Greek and saluted Euterpe, his proud mother, dressed in peach for the occasion.

Basking in the ecstatic applause of an all-Greek audience in Boston for the Orthodox Congress of the Americas, Mr. Michael Dukakis switched into his ancient Hellenic mode on Wednesday night.

Those old Athenians knew a thing or two about conservatism, he said. "One of the things the Ancient Greeks gave us was something called the rule of law." President Reagan's team had ignored this but things will change



"next year, if all goes well and we have a son of Greek immigrants in the White House".

Whatever the Governor of Massachusetts says, it is a good thing Socrates is not around to review the quality of the debate. With a week to go before the Democratic convention in Atlanta and the election more than four months away, the big fight is over who merits the laurel of true conservative and foe of liberals.

In the weeks since he tied up the nomination, Mr. Dukakis's claim has come unstuck. Mr. George Bush and a Republican "truth squad" lately joined by President Reagan, have chipped away effectively



Mr. Dukakis and Archbishop Iakovos admitting to being Red Sox fans at the Boston conference of the Orthodox Church.

at the image of Dukakis the worker of the Massachusetts economic miracle.

This week, as the Governor's increasingly hectic search for a vice-president appeared to home in on Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, opinion polls showed his national lead over the Republican candidate slipping to a handful of percentage points. Two months ago he was about 12 points in front.

Worse, in his home state, a poll this week showed sagging support for the Governor. Fifty per cent believe Mr. Bush

would do a better job keeping down taxes, while only 22 per cent sided with Mr. Dukakis.

Though the hometown candidate still enjoys an overall home-state lead of 14 points, his unfavourable ratings have doubled since January to a dangerously high 36 per cent — five points behind the Rev. Jesse Jackson's.

The explanation is not hard to find. Since the Dukakis honeymoon ended, the national press and the Republican Party have homed in on his Massachusetts record while a state spending crisis

has weakened his pose as the perfect manager.

The Governor still mows his lawn with a hand-mower in Perry Street and he still travels to work on the suburban Greenline tram — albeit with a team of Secret Service bodyguards.

But the revised version Dukakis is no longer the frugal and shining fiscal knight. His opponents have been busy painting him as an ordinary liberal politician with a mean streak and a dangerous knowledge of all attitudes. With the revelation that he is worth \$1.5

million (£842,000) his poor immigrant claims have also been wearing a little thin.

President Reagan, finally throwing his weight behind his Vice-President, warned voters earlier this week that Mr. Dukakis was campaigning as a "liberal incognito" and "all the promise of the future could be lost in just a few months".

Even some local Democrats have been getting at the self-confident Governor. "Everybody is with him," said a senior state legislator, "but whenever he stubs his toe

they're laughing. They're with him, but they don't like him. He's the know-it-all."

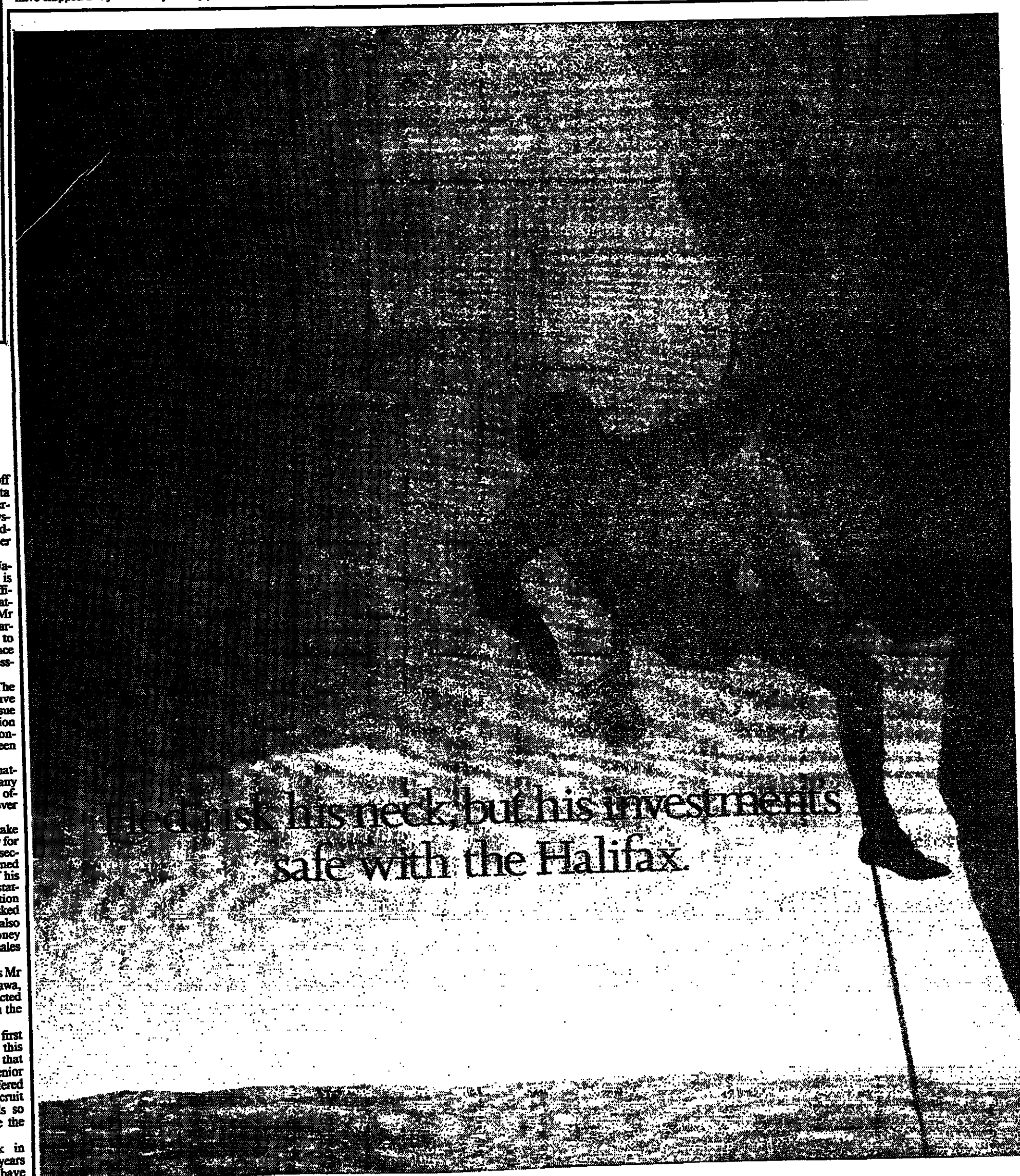
The Dukakis boasts about balancing budgets have added spice to Republican glee over the "taxachusetts" fiscal crunch. "My daddy told me to pay the bills," a favourite Dukakis boast, was being quoted by the Vice-President yesterday as he addressed the Greek Congress in Boston.

Massachusetts, like two dozen other states, over-estimated tax revenues this year and now finds itself short of \$472 million (£265 million). The Governor, forbidden by law to run a deficit, has opted for a tax on cigarettes among measures to close the gap. Since supporting tax rises is politically akin to backing child murder in this year's campaign, Mr. Bush has been enjoying a field day.

The Republican, fresh from his "solemn oath" never to raise taxes, hauled out Mr. Dukakis's pledge to do so only as a last resort. "Massachusetts has just experienced the last resort before they heard what the first one might be," said the Bush spokeswoman, Miss Sheila Tate.

The Dukakis staff say the Vice-President is trivializing the campaign with petty criticisms and the pendulum will swing back when his own record comes under scrutiny before the Republican convention next month.

Yesterday the Governor donned his white sheriff's hat again and set off on yet another tour through the Bush country of Texas and the South-west — mainly to burnish his star as champion of law and order ahead of the Atlanta convention.



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# Explosive mix of failures that sent IR655 to disaster

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# Mexican opposition demands inquiry into ballot 'fraud'

From Alan Robinson, Mexico City

The three main opposition candidates in Mexico's federal elections on Wednesday say they will not recognize a government led by Señor Carlos Salinas de Gortari, presidential candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, unless "numerous cases of fraud" are investigated and the results reversed.

Amidst the turmoil, Señor Salinas was declared winner by his own party's count.

Hours after voting closed, Señor Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, of the National Democratic Front, Señor Manuel Clouthier, of the National Action Party, and Señor Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, of the Mexican Workers Party, spent a couple of stormy hours with Señor Manuel Bartlett, the Interior Minister, who is also president of the National Electoral Commission.

Afterwards Señor Ibarra, who acted as spokesman, told a large crowd of supporters and journalists that the opposition demanded that "if legality is not restored to the electoral process", they "would not accept the results nor recognize the authority conferred by fraudulent practices".

Señor Bartlett later rejected the accusations, which he said were not backed by evidence. The election had been "a clean and open one with few irregularities". The opposition was trying to "jump over the law and declare the election illegal, behaviour which violates all civic and political norms", he said.

The Minister's statement,

made in a 3 am session of the National Electoral Commission, led to a bitter and acrimonious debate that went on through the night.

The opposition parties have listed several hundred cases of electoral fraud and say they have the evidence to prove each one.

Meanwhile, Señor Jorge de la Vega Domínguez, leader of the PRI, said the party had won and that Señor Salinas's victory was "legal, beyond doubt and overwhelming".

But the National Democratic Front calculated that Señor Cárdenas had won in 14 states. The National Action Party said Señor Clouthier had won in seven. That would leave only another 11 states for the PRI. All claims, however, must be verified by the commission, which has to make its own counts.

The election campaign has had its moments of low comedy, but finally slipped into slapstick on voting day.

The National Action Party procured an advance copy of the magazine *Impacto* on Wednesday morning, well before balloting started. The issue, which went on sale yesterday, reported that Señor Salinas had won the election and that the PRI had reached its target of 20 million votes.

There was a similar article in *Jueves de Excelsior*, a magazine published by *Excelsior*, the nation's principal daily, which also goes on sale on Thursdays.

*Impacto*, once a fierce right-wing critic of the Government, was taken over by PRI

sympathizers more than a year ago. The Interior Ministry ordered police to throw out the editor and some of his staff.

Halfway through the balloting, the Interior Ministry's computer lines failed and it was impossible to gather election data for which the electoral commission was waiting. Opposition members of the commission commented acidly that the computers in the PRI building did not fail. The Mexican Socialist Party said the Government was "preparing a colossal fraud".

Reports contradicted the claims of a clean and peaceful election published in the afternoon newspapers. Ballot boxes were stuffed, swapped, stolen and burned. In one case a whole voting station was burned down.

Opposition representatives were ordered out of stations by PRI officials, in at least one case at gunpoint. Groups of soldiers and sailors went from place to place voting repeatedly, as did gangs of civilians. There was a gunfight after one man was found stuffing a score of votes into the box.

Voting stations were opened late, closed early, and PRI officials obstructed business or staged go-slows which drove people away after waiting for hours.

National Democratic Front and National Action Party members on the commission offered notarized proof of some of the charges.

The fraud row makes it uncertain when a final result will be declared.

## Paraplegic Olympics protest as Seoul times conciliation move with Games



Handicapped protesters charging riot police in Seoul yesterday in an emotional demonstration against the South Korean Government's welfare policies and the Paraplegic Olympics to be held in the capital in October. Carrying banners reading "We will boycott the Paraplegic Olympics, which are being held just for show", the 200 protesters tried in vain to break through riot police deployed to stop them moving into central Seoul. The demonstrators dispersed after two hours, but reappeared in

smaller numbers in front of Seoul City Hall for more protests. There were no immediate reports of arrests or injuries. Among the protesters' demands were that the Government establish an agency to handle the affairs of handicapped people and introduce laws to promote employment schemes. "We are not against the Olympics, just the Para-Olympics," said one protester, who added that the event should not be held in a country that did not know how to treat its own handicapped.

## Roh wants era of co-operation with the North

From A Correspondent, Seoul

President Roh of South Korea, who has established a reputation as a man with a keen sense of public image, appears to have scored only a moderate public relations success with his first big policy statement on North Korea.

Yesterday's declaration, which called for an end to confrontation with the North and for a new era of reconciliation and co-operation, has been welcomed by all three opposition parties.

But the Seoul stock exchange lost ground, with investors said to be disappointed that Mr Roh had failed to produce any substantially new concrete proposals.

Policy towards the North is always a big political issue in the South. But Mr Roh's policy declaration comes at a time when the subject of Korean reunification had been highlighted by the approach of the summer Olympics — which Pyongyang is boycotting after its demand to co-host the games was rejected.

Foreign Ministry officials concede that one motive behind the timing of the declaration is the wish to create "a positive atmosphere" for the Olympics, and they describe the statement as a response to "the peoples' aspirations" for reunification.

Those aspirations were forcefully expressed in early June, in clashes between riot police and several thousand radical students protesting against the Government's re-

fusal to allow their leaders to meet a delegation of North Korean students in the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas.

The attempted meeting presented a big challenge to the Government, since commitment to reunification is an article of national faith in the South. The students have proposed another joint meeting in mid-August, and the latest policy declaration is in part a response to their challenge.

Exchanges and visits of students — as well as politicians, journalists, businessmen and others — will be actively promoted by the South in the future, according to the declaration. The statement does not mention the need for the two Governments to meet first, previously an essential point of policy.

But Western diplomats here also argue that the declaration should be seen as more than just a response to domestic pressures, particularly in its wish to abandon what it calls "counter-productive diplomacy" — shorthand for the obsession with vilifying and obstructing the North.

But while the declaration signifies a shift in policy style, there's little chance it will produce any sudden changes in the status quo.

One diplomat here observed that the declaration may have "a lot of wonderful words. But none of it will matter twopenny if the North doesn't play ball."

## Floods toll rises

Dhaka — The death toll in north-eastern Bangladesh climbed to 55 as 18 more bodies were recovered yesterday in submerged villages pounded by torrential rains (Ahmed Fazi writes). Water from the river Gumbi burst a dam and destroyed bridges in the worst-hit region, the tea-growing Sumanganj district. About two million people have been marooned by the floods.

### Diners stoned

Alanya, Turkey (Reuters) — At least 13 people were arrested after villagers shouting "Allah" (God) stoned diners at a restaurant near this southern Turkish resort, injuring two West Germans and six Turks.

### Back to sender

Copenhagen (AP) — Denmark will return 10 containers of Soviet research equipment that dropped into the sea from a drifting balloon.

### Off to Phobos

Baykonur (AFP) — Soviet technicians were putting the finishing touches to a powerful rocket due to lift off with a spacecraft that will be the first to land on Phobos, one of two Mars satellites.

### One term

Lagos (AFP) — A six-year single term for the president, vice-president and state governors has been recommended in the draft of the Nigerian constitution.

### Note case

Nairobi (Reuters) — A Nairobi court has sentenced Edward James Lewin, a British tourist, to three months in jail for mutilating Kenyan banknotes worth 190 shillings, about £6.

### Bulls run

Pamplona (Reuters) — About 20 people were hurt, none of them seriously, as six bulls charged through Pamplona on the first day of the town's bull-running festival made famous by Ernest Hemingway.

### Rabuka rebuff

Sydney (Reuters) — Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, leader of Fiji's coup, can not visit Australia due to security reasons, Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said.

### Passenger ban

Paris (Reuters) — French pilots have been banned from carrying passengers on demonstration flights after last month's fatal crash of an Airbus at Mulhouse air show.

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and the Burlington Arcade, W1.





July 7 1988

## PARLIAMENT

# Destroyed oil rig was inspected last week

The Occidental oil rig, Piper Alpha, that had been destroyed by explosions and fire in the North Sea had had its most recent safety inspection only last week, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, told MPs.

He said that the safety inspectorate in his department was widely recognized as one of the best qualified in the world.

In a statement to the Commons, Mr Parkinson said that the Government would set up a full public inquiry into the disaster as soon as possible. It was determined to establish urgently the cause.

"Nearly 30,000 people work in the UK sector of the North Sea. They and their families have the right to expect the fullest possible investigation."

Mr Parkinson and MPs from all sides of the House joined in expressions of sympathy for the bereaved and injured and in paying tribute to the bravery of the rescue services.

He said that the Queen had asked him to convey to all those concerned her heartfelt sympathy for the injured and bereaved, and her admiration for the gallant efforts of the fire-fighting, rescue and medical services in preventing even greater loss of life.

The explosion appeared to have been so violent that the platform was effectively destroyed. Speaking at 3.30pm, he said that his latest information was that there were 229 people on the platform at the time of the explosion of whom 65 were known to have survived.

There were three people in a small boat involved in the rescue, of whom one was known to have survived. Sixteen people were known to be dead and 150 were unaccounted for.

"Oil and gas production in the hostile environment of the North Sea demands the greatest attention to safety. Safety is the first priority of the Government and of the operators. We apply the highest safety standards to all phases of development: design, construction and operation."

Established procedures that had to be followed in emergencies were rehearsed regularly.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, offered deep sympathy to the families and all those involved in this tragic event.

He also expressed appreciation and admiration for the excellent rescue services provided in these most difficult circumstances as well as for the on-shore services provided by the police, hospitals and other services. It was a reminder of just how much those people contributed.

Considering the magnitude of this tragedy, the Opposition fully endorsed the decision to have a public inquiry. Did Mr Parkinson accept that this inquiry should be open and wide ranging so that nothing was excluded from its scope?

Would he confirm that the Health and Safety Executive would conduct its own investigation into the technical effects and causes of this tragedy?

Mr Parkinson said that the inquiry would be as full as possible, but the question of whether it should be conducted under Scottish or English law, or both, had to be resolved. Law officers were considering the point and the House would be told as soon as a decision had been made.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East, Lab) asked whether an inquiry would rule out the possibility of a fatal accident inquiry and would that be discussed with the Lord Advocate?

Mr Parkinson said that the law officers were looking carefully at the relationship between the two legal systems. It did not necessarily follow that an inquiry under one would rule out the other.

In answer to a later question, he said that the platform had been a major producer, bringing up 120,000 barrels of oil a day.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, SLD) asked if the House could be given a further details of the proposed inquiry.

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Would he confirm that the health and safety legislation did not fully apply to this industry? That highlighted the conflict between the department's responsibility for production as well as safety.

Would he now review that conflict of interest and consider whether the Health and Safety Executive should extend its powers to the North Sea industry?

Mr Parkinson said that the inquiry would wish to be wide ranging and to get at the fundamental causes and to make sure that, if there were any wider implications from this particular event and if there were any lessons to be learnt for other operators, that information was disseminated as quickly as possible. It would be a very deep and far-reaching inquiry.

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It was not just the inspectorate of his department that attended the platforms. The inspectorate had finished the most recent inspection of this platform on June 28.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping also had a responsibility annually to certify the platforms and equipment. The Department of Transport also had to check the safety arrangements and the safety equipment on board.

So these platforms were under continuous inspection, not just from his department, acting on behalf of the inspectorate, but also by other Government departments and by independent bodies.

On the question of whether his department should continue to carry out this work as agent for the Health and Safety Executive, this had been carefully examined by the Burgoyne committee which had reported in 1981.

In its majority report, that committee had said that the present arrangements were, in its opinion, the best possible. He accepted that there had been a minority report, which disagreed, but the majority report, whose recommendations the Government had accepted, felt that the present arrangements were the best.

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Mr Parkinson, who expressed the Government's deep regret at the Piper Alpha disaster

## Children 'must come first'

The paramount protection must be given to the child in considering possible cases of child sexual abuse, Mrs Thatcher said during question time.

Mr Richard Holt (Langborough, C) The events surrounding the Cleveland scandal must never be allowed to happen again in this country. Those charged with taking action arising out of it must do so quickly and allow the people of south Cleveland to build their lives on the prosperity laid down so well over the past five years.

Mrs Thatcher: We all condemn child abuse and violence and must do everything we can to protect children from that, but at the same time we must make certain that false allegations are not made against parents or children who may be innocent.

It is easy to draw the line, but not always so easy for social workers and neighbours to see that they go on the right side of it.

## No rise in homeless

There had been no increase, as far as the Government was aware, in the number of homeless in London, Mrs Thatcher said during question time. Numbers of places in hostels for the homeless were not taken up every night.

Mr Paul Boateng (Brent South, Lab) had told her that there were more people homeless and sleeping rough on the streets of the capital than in any other capital in Europe, except Istanbul.

## Donkeys Bill

The Protection against Cruel Treatment Bill, aimed at improving conditions for horses, ponies and donkeys when they are tethered, completed its passage through the House of Lords on Tuesday.

## Delors 'wrong'

The Prime Minister said during question time that she does not agree with M Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, who said on Wednesday that in 10 years 80 per cent of decisions on social and economic decisions now made by national parliaments would be made in Brussels.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Malicious Communications Bill, Access to Medical Reports Bill and Protection of Animals (Amendment) Bill, Lords amendments.

The Lords should sit at 11am to debate Education structural funds, but this sitting could be affected by progress on the Education Reform Bill.

## Government wants dolphin inquiry

The Government has asked the Danish authorities for an immediate investigation into reports of dolphin killing in The Faeroes. Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, said at questions that the practice was contrary to the law of The Faeroes.

He was replying to Mr David Shaw (Dover, C), who said that there was much appreciation of the work the Government had done to protect dolphins. What was it doing about recent reports that the Faeroese were continuing to kill them?

Mr Gummer said the Govern-

ment was determined to do all it could to protect dolphins and small whales as well as larger ones.

Mr Calum Macdonald (Western Isles, Lab) said that there was a lack of knowledge about dolphins. Would the Government fund research into this?

Mr Gummer said that inshore dolphins were a matter for the Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Nicholas Ridley). The Government was committed to the view that the depredations on these animals and whales in general had been wholly unacceptable.

He said yesterday that the

policy, would have given an impression of panic and that in any case party leader will benefit from a break from the Westminster hothouse.

Mr Kinnock himself has long been committed to the trip, which he regards as another opportunity to boost his international stature and his knowledge of the world's trouble-spots.

He said yesterday that the

Labour's fortunes have slumped since Mr Kinnock's last foreign trip, his tour of the Middle East, in February, which was felt widely by his advisers and Shadow Cabinet colleagues to have been a considerable success.

The Labour leader will inevitably face more criticism for being away if further controversies blow up either in the House of Commons, in the traditionally volatile last month



## SPECTRUM

To turn gold bars into cash profits, a lawyer's cunning was needed. Stewart Tendler and Michael Horsnell explain his methods

# Brink's-Mat: the bullion trail

At 6.40am on November 26, 1983 — a grey Saturday morning — a gang of armed and hooded robbers raided nondescript high-security warehouses near Heathrow Airport, London. Working on an inside tip, they stole £26,369,778, including 6,800 gold bars the size of Mars bars and weighing three tons — after soaking guards in petrol and threatening to set fire to them.

In 1984 Tony Black, the inside tipster, confessed, became an informer, and was sentenced to six years. He has now completed his sentence. Two of the robbers went to jail for 25 years.

In 1985: A detective was stabbed to death by Kenneth Noye, a suspect whose house he was keeping under surveillance. Noye was cleared of murder, after claiming that he was protecting his home and family.

In 1986: Noye received 14 years for handling the bullion.

Immediately after the robbery the South London underworld was buzzing with the immensity of the haul. Experts moved in to advise the robbers how to profit from their haul.

Half of the bullion — packed in shoe boxes — was buried and remains

undiscovered. The other half was re-smelted and sold on the legitimate market (making an instant 15 per cent by the non-payment of VAT). The proceeds were then used in property deals which quickly produced assets probably worth more than the total haul. These are some of those who have faced the courts:

● Tony Black, the "inside man" at Brink's-Mat who turned police informer. Six years jail.

● Michael McAvoy, sentenced to 25 years for the robbery. Tried to give half

the gold back in a deal aimed at early parole.

● Brian Robinson, sentenced to 25 years.

● Tony White, acquitted of the robbery.

● Kenneth Noye, acquitted of murdering DC John Fordham, undercover policeman, but received 14 years for handling gold.

● John Palmer, nicknamed "Gold-finger", came back to Britain after spending 18 months in the Canary Islands, accused of playing leading role re-smelting gold. Acquired.

● John Fleming, returned to Britain

after being pursued across Europe and the Americas for three years. Accused of handling gold, but case thrown out by magistrate.

● Michael Relton, known as "the Champagne Man", a London solicitor and the brains behind the laundering operation. Found guilty yesterday.

● Brian Perry, mini-cab company owner, now facing a retrial.

● John Elcombe, antique dealer, acquitted yesterday.

● Stephen Donovan, property specialist, acquitted yesterday.

● Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy, the robber's first wife, now facing a retrial.

● Mrs Kathleen McAvoy, the robber's second wife, given £500,000 house. Acted as go-between in schemes to give back the money. Found guilty yesterday.

● Joseph Medayil, north London accountant, acquitted yesterday.

● Michael Osborn, car dealer, acquitted yesterday.

Police still wish to interview:

● Gordon Parry, son of a south London bookmaker, businessman and partner with Relton.

## THE PROPERTY DEALS

## A new breed of crook

The Brink's-Mat trials have revealed a new style of criminal, skilled in laundering money and investing it profitably. Unlike the Great Train Robbers, most of whom ended up broke, the bullion robbers had contacts with professional advisers, property dealers and US crime syndicates.

Relton was shrewd enough to invest in derelict Docklands properties long before legitimate developers saw their potential. He also invested abroad and bought part of Cheltenham Ladies College to turn into luxury flats.

Underwriters are reported to have recovered more than £12 million from the sale of just two investments: Globe Wharf, bought for £1.6 million and sold for £8 million; and Cyclops Wharf, bought for £2.7 million and sold for £4.25 million.

In a third deal, New Caledonian Wharf was bought for £750,000 and quickly resold for £1.75 million.

About 30 property deals have been traced. Some brought unashamed luxury to members of the gang and their families.

Convicted bullion raid leader Michael McAvoy was able to treat his mistress handsomely, even though he was in jail serving 25 years. Kathleen Meacock (whom he later married in jail), moved from a council flat in Prioresse Street, off the Old Kent Road, to sumptuous Turpington Farm, now worth £300,000. The two Rottweilers which guarded her new home were called Brinks and Mat.

Purchases were carefully constructed so that investigators would find themselves

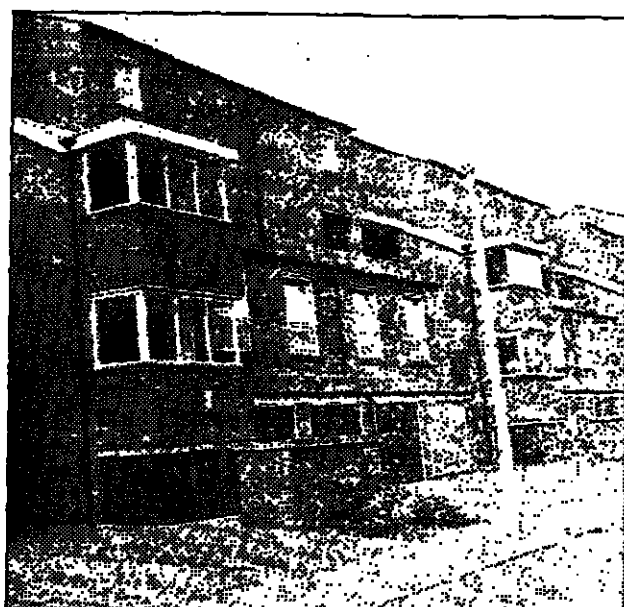
trapped in blind alleys created by banking and legal conventions, claiming client confidentiality. "We were dealing with some of the most adept, enterprising, violent and ruthless criminals in the country," says Brian Worth, deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

They were men described by one observer as "daunting specimens of the modern criminal: defiant, amoral, smart — known in professional robbery circles as 'the meatiest team in the business'". The Brink's-Mat trials revealed how easily large amounts of cash can be moved around the British and international banking systems, with few questions asked and few traces of the money's progress.

One bank accepted a suitcase full of money from a man who did not know whether it contained £400,000 or £500,000.

At an earlier trial Barclays were criticized for allowing millions to flow through a small West Country branch in highly suspicious circumstances without taking action. In this trial the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and the Bank of Ireland were singled out for attack by counsel.

The investigation into the robbery was the first one to use new search powers under the 1986 Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), allowing police to examine bank accounts before making arrests. Although Relton's laundering had been astute, he failed to appreciate how PACE would change police investigation techniques.



A mistress's progress: Kathleen Meacock, who was to marry McAvoy in jail, went from the council flat in Prioresse Street, off the Old Kent Road, to sumptuous Turpington Farm, in Kent



Money makers: Relton shrewdly converted part of Cheltenham Ladies College into flats and invested in New Caledonian Wharf, in London's Docklands, before developers saw its potential



In December 1985, Detective Inspector David Sandlin had an underworld tip that McAvoy's girl friend, Kathleen, had moved into a big house advertised in *Country Life*. He did not know the address but found it after a search through a year's copies of the magazine.

Using the powers of PACE, Sandlin was able to trace the money involved in the house

deal, which eventually led him to the laundering network. By this time, the summer of 1986, the main launderer, solicitor Michael Relton, had gone abroad, but greed goaded him into taking a risk: he returned to London to finalize a property deal. By chance, Sandlin was checking records at the bank involved in the deal when Relton turned up.

Sandlin was part of a 45-

strong special task force set up to investigate Britain's biggest robbery. It is led by Detective Chief Supt Brian Boyce, a colourful character — a professional jazz pianist before becoming a policeman. He is the grammar school educated son of a north London street trader whose experience now ranges from gang-busting to hunting IRA terrorists.

He brings to his detective work the tenacity he learned as an Outward Bound instructor and mountaineer.

It is these qualities which make it possible to accept his claim that he will not give up the case until the rest of the gold has been discovered. He told *The Times*: "We are still continuing with our investigations into the robbery and subsequent criminal use of the proceeds."

## THE CHAMPAGNE MAN

## Lawyer turned launderer

The chilled champagne floated across the swimming pool on a tray and a man who had become a millionaire on the proceeds of the Brink's-Mat robbery reached down for a fresh glass.

Selective Estates — a company busily investing Brink's-Mat money in booming Docklands — was in informal session at the newly-acquired £600,000 Surrey home of Michael Relton, solicitor turned criminal. The scene was typical Relton style. He was known as "The Champagne Man" and dubbed in court as the launderer's "Chancellor of the Exchequer". He saw himself as a connoisseur of wine and food and always appeared in the dock impeccably dressed.

Relton, aged 50, of Chase Farm, Haslemere, Surrey, was educated at Westminster School, and became a successful London defence solicitor. He had offices close to Scotland Yard and had defended 36 police officers, losing only one case. Senior officers at Scotland Yard despised him,

suspecting that information he gleaned from police contacts was used to help criminals.

He began his career in 1961, mixing legal work with property development in Britain and in Florida. In 1970 the Law Society suspended him for six months for unprofessional activities with client funds. He ran "Briefs" wine bar opposite the Inner London Crown Court and had a share in a restaurant near Guy's Hospital.

His connection with Brink's-Mat came through Gordon Parry, a former Heathrow worker whom Relton defended in a cannabis trial in 1972. They kept in contact and in 1982 Relton gave up his practice and went full-time into property with Parry. Relton diverted profits for himself into a Swiss account he called "Asbestos Stiffing" — a private joke showing he believed the account to be fireproof.

There was also a Liechtenstein account called Moya, his should have been Moët, his



Michael Relton: 12 years for handling the robbery proceeds

favourite drink, but the name was misheard.

Parry, now 42 and son of a south London bookmaker, had links with the bullion robber leader Michael McAvoy.

The court heard Parry described as a "confidence trickster with charm, charisma and a good nose for property... probably now sunning himself in Marbella or Brazil."

The former petty criminal moved from his terrace house in Royal Hill, Greenwich, to Crookham House, a 15th Century house with 48 acres near Chertwell, Kent, now worth £1 million. Parry paid cash for a £81,000 Red Bentley which he called The Fire Engine and protected his home with a closed circuit TV security system.

He is still wanted for questioning.

## THE RECOVERY

Loss adjusters busy realizing the assets of the successful laundering operation could end-up with a balance higher than the £26 million which was stolen. A series of civil actions has been launched for the recovery of the stolen bullion — or its value.

Already the identified assets have been estimated at between £18 and £25 million and police still hope that one day they will unearth the £13 million which remains hidden.

Eight High Court writs have been served against 50 defendants seeking not only recovery of the £26 million stolen, but also the profits from investments. Lloyds, who insured the gold, paid Brink's-Mat the full value promptly

and are now seeking to recover their loss.

The defendants include not only convicted criminals, but innocent parties like clearing banks which unwittingly handled the proceeds, and people who have been acquitted. (Civil claims can be pursued despite an acquittal.)

Those served with writs include Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, National Westminster Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Union Bank of Switzerland and Johnson Matthey, the bullion dealers who consigned the gold to Brink's-Mat. The Johnson Matthey suit alleges they bought back some of their own gold, but the bullion dealers say they bought in good faith from legitimate sources.

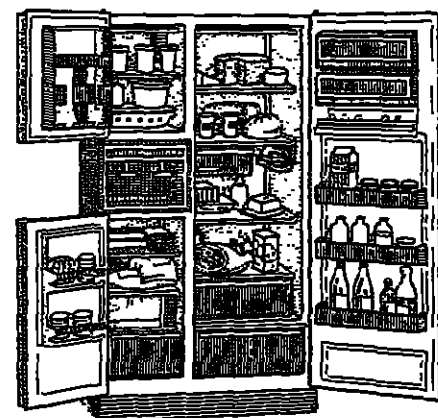
## THE BETRAYAL

Michael McAvoy, smouldering under a 25 year sentence while his mates were enjoying the good life, made a bid for early parole by offering to organize the return of half the bullion. But detectives authorized to negotiate with him in Leicester Jail discovered that McAvoy's associates refused to play this game.

Their attitude was cynically summed up in a selfish catchphrase: "Whoever has the GOLD makes the RULES."

McAvoy was livid at what he saw as a double-cross and issued a written threat from jail that anyone crossing him was "signing his own death (sic) warrant".

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## SCIENCE REPORT

## Solar-power tracks the buzz from Brazil

Miniature solar-powered lasers, so small that they can be carried aloft by individual honey bees, will soon be tested at the United States Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The plan is to fit the lasers to the notorious killer honey bees that are expected to invade Texas from Mexico early next year.

The project may sound like an eccentric attempt to add laser-armed insects to the arsenal of the US defence force. But the lasers are needed to help scientists track killer bees and learn more about their behaviour.

The killer bees are "Africanized" honey bees, hybrids of the African and European subspecies of the honey bee,

which were accidentally released during a breeding experiment in Brazil in 1956. The experiment was intended to create a strain of bee that would combine the ease-of-handling of the European bee with the vigour of the African race. But instead it produced a monster race.

The resulting Africanized bees are extremely aggressive. In contrast to European bees, which can safely be placed out in orchards to help pollination, Africanized bees mount massive group attacks against anything that comes within a quarter of a mile of their homes. Victims of attacks commonly receive 30 to 40 stings per square inch of exposed skin, and may die as a result.

Africanized bees are also poor honey producers and swarm frequently, leaving their hives and building nests in the wild. There they compete with hive-kept bees for nectar. They may also take over commercial hives, rendering them unprofitable. And, to make matters worse, it is impossible to tell an Africanized bee from a European bee with the naked eye.

Since their release in Brazil, Africanized bees have swept steadily north, through Central America. They are now well-entrenched in southern Mexico and are expected to begin moving over the border into Texas early next year.

So far, no way has been found of stopping them. The US Department of Agriculture

is busy in Mexico searching out and destroying wild colonies of the Africanized bees. It is also releasing large numbers of European honey bee queens, in the hope that the Africanized bees will mate with the European queens and produce a gentler race.

That plan seems unlikely to succeed. During their 20-year odyssey from Brazil, the Africanized bees have already mated with the bee populations of nine nations. But they remain as aggressive and unproductive as ever.

New solutions have to be sought — and that is where the Oak Ridge National Laboratory comes in. Although the laboratory's prime concern is to build more efficient nuclear reactors, its In-

strument and Control Division welcomed the chance of putting its electronics expertise to work for the bee-keepers.

They were asked to help find a way to track individual honey bees so that their foraging and mating behaviour could be better understood and — with luck — controlled.

The researchers responded with an integrated circuit carrying an array of tiny solar cells that could power a minute infra-red semiconductor laser. The whole chip weighs just 35 thousandths of a gram, which is not enough to bother a bee in flight. The laser light can be detected up to a mile away by a ground-based telescope fitted with an electronic sensor. That will make it possible to track

and record the behaviour of individual bees even during mating, when they fly high in the sky.

And to help bee keepers keep killer bees at bay until a more permanent solution is found, Oak Ridge researchers have come up with an electronic device that can tell Africanized bees from European bees by the sound of their buzz. The research draws on the sound analysis techniques used to listen for abnormalities in the running of nuclear reactors. With the hand-held device, bee keepers should be able to pick out hives taken over by Africanized bees and mark them for destruction.

Alan Anderson  
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# TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

The signs are that there will be no Cabinet reshuffle this September, despite John Moore's troubled year at the DHSS and bumbling performances at the Despatch Box by John Wakeham, Leader of the House. There will, however, be a shake-up at lower levels which will provide an intriguing insight into the relative influence of Cabinet members with the Prime Minister. Several have parliamentary private secretaries eager for ministerial jobs, and will be expected to advance their claims. Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, is understood to be pushing on behalf of his Welsh PPS, Alistair Burt, Virginia Bottomley and Nigel Forman. PPSs to the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor respectively, are both strong favourites for promotion.

Others of the 1983 intake thought to be in with a chance are dry-as-dust Michael Fallon, PPS to the resurgent Energy Secretary, Cecil Parkinson, and the quiet but effective David Heathcoat-Amory, bag-carrier to Douglas Hurd at the Home Office. Should Mrs Thatcher wish to show the 1979 intake that they have not been forgotten, Gerry Neale and Nicholas Baker, PPSs respectively to the Defence Secretary, George Younger, and the Trade Secretary, Lord Young, would be leading contenders. But Nicholas Soames, Nicholas Ridley's ebullient PPS at Environment, surely a natural whippet, may have blotted his copy book by his recent remark that whips are "simply mice in training to be rats".

One minister who will not be losing sleep over the reshuffle is Wyn Roberts, who has been at the Welsh Office as long as Mrs Thatcher has been at Downing Street. He may not be the most sparkling member of the government, but his job is as safe as houses. Since Keith Best's ignominious resignation last year, Roberts has been the only Tory MP who can speak Welsh.

Roy Hattersley, who is being challenged for his job as Labour's deputy leader, backed his car into a concrete no-parking bollard at the Commons yesterday. He did not get out to see what he had hit. "It's a keep-left sign," shouted Ron Brown, the Mace-dropping Labour MP from Leith.

After their lacklustre general election campaign senior Tories talked incessantly of the need for a dynamic new party chairman to shake up Conservative Central Office and axe the deadwood. Last November Mrs Thatcher appointed the amiable but distinctly low-key Peter Brooke, and Brooke promised that he would "soon" be submitting to the Prime Minister a package of proposals to revitalize the Tory party machine. Nine months later that package is still not forthcoming. I am told, however, that Brooke is now planning to put pen to paper this August with a view to restructuring Central Office by the end of the year, appointing a new advertising agency in place of Saatchi and, if Mrs Thatcher agrees, bringing in an omnipotent director of communications. This he will do when not engaged with his first love — playing cricket.

BARRY FANTONI



"I picked up a wheel clamp and two parking tickets. How about you?"

Des Wilson, the former Liberal Party president, is now standing for the presidency of the SLD. This precludes him from publicly stating a preference for the leadership, but he is widely believed to be an ardent Paddy Ashdown man. This may explain the remarkably selective memory he displays in a four-page ad in the party newspaper extolling his past record.

He tells us that in 1973 he fought a "sensational" by-election campaign in Hove, coming within 4,000 votes of toppling the Tories, and that "many people still talk about the inspiration of that campaign". Nowhere does he mention that on the very same day Alan Beith, Ashdown's leader at the time, actually won a far more sensational by-election in Berwick. Beith has just hit back. At Tuesday's leadership hustings in Westminster he enraged the Wilsonians by issuing a leaflet in which Wilson appears to endorse Beith's candidacy by praising him to the skies. The quotes were in fact lifted from a book which Wilson wrote after the last general election. Another election is now being fought within the SLD, between MPs Malcolm Bruce and Archie Kirkwood for the Scottish party leadership. Although the contest is reaching its climax, Bruce has just left for a week-long trip to Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary with the Commons Trade and Industry committee. He went on the clear understanding that Kirkwood would not take advantage of his absence by campaigning. But the word from Scotland is that he has been campaigning furiously.

A record without comment the results of last week's election by the Parliamentary Labour Party of its four representatives for the North Atlantic Assembly, Nato's "Parliament". There were nine candidates. Allan Rogers, one of the party's frontbench defence spokesmen, failed to get elected. James Lamond, a man whose views make 'ND's seem moderate, succeeded.

As, following the recent death of Wilberforce, the Downing Street cat, I report the demise of 11 of Ted, side dog of the blind Labour MP David Lunnett. Ted was the first dog to be allowed to the Commons chamber. Lunnett described him as the perfect political aide: "said nothing to offend people and never bled the wrong way."

The tragic accident in the Piper oil field on Wednesday demonstrates beyond words the dangers inherent in offshore oil and gas production. Nearly 300 deaths in the UK sector over the past 25 years out of a workforce of around 30,000 make the oil industry the most dangerous in Britain.

The environment is hostile, the product is explosive, the locations are remote, and management is hostile to any "challenge" to its authority. The cramped working area means that simple accidents become serious, a fire or explosion affects not only those at work but those asleep and out of duty as well, thus at least doubling casualties. The inquiry into the disaster should examine all the relevant circumstances, not just the immediate cause. We should by now be used to handling explosive material. The major lesson is of course to keep sources of ignition away from sources of fuel. This is a difficult process and needs active cooperation as well as sensible rules to implement.

While a piece of rotating machinery or an electrical problem may well be the cause of the

initial explosion, the fact that it occurred at all is a reflection of the work that still needs to be done.

The situation today might well be different if more attention had been paid to the evidence of the union representatives on the 1980 Burgoyne Committee into offshore safety. In a note of dissent they drew attention to shortcomings which unfortunately still exist.

Unlike onshore installations, those offshore are not required to have a health and safety committee. It is time they were given equal protection. Unions have found a reluctance on the part of many oil companies to recognize the benefits of co-operation with the trade unions over health and safety issues.

There is no doubting the companies' good intentions concerning health and safety but

their attitude to the unions on this issue weakens their defence. For example, earlier this year Shell was fined at Bow Street magistrates court for the absence of a piece of medical equipment which came to light after an accident. In its defence it said "no one pointed out to us that it was missing".

In agreeing to a ballot on recognition of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, Shell excluded health and safety from the issues which could be discussed. Some two years ago the MSF health and safety representatives on the Piper platform walked out of their committee in frustration because they considered that Occidental Petroleum was not prepared to look seriously at the issues they raised.

The union representatives on the Burgoyne committee particu-

larly drew attention to the possible conflict of interest arising from the Department of Energy having responsibility for both production and safety in an industry which has major significance for the British economy, and where economic performance might take precedence over every other consideration.

They wrote: "through no fault of their own, members of the Petroleum Engineering Division may experience conflicting pressure emanating from the one hand and from the requirements of safety on the other. This also takes place in a context wherein the operating companies are under constant pressure for financial reasons to maximize development, production and exploration."

They suggested that responsibility for safety in the offshore

industry should be passed completely to the Health and Safety Executive. Adding that the unique aspects of offshore operations were frequently overstressed, they said that "the vast majority of offshore accidents arise out of circumstances which would be perfectly comprehensible to an ordinary Factory Inspector". This remains as true today as it was in 1980.

The experience of the Health and Safety Executive and its Inspectorate is second to none. It covers almost all health and safety issues onshore, including oil and gas processing plants. The offshore industry continues to fight for its own Inspectorate. If Wednesday's accident had occurred a few months later the multi-support vessel, Tharion, would not have been available to perform its invaluable rescue work. It is not used during the

winter and there are rumours that all these vessels are to be withdrawn as they are no longer considered to be "economic".

First City estimates of the cost of Wednesday's disaster are that the shutdown in production in the five fields surrounding the Piper Alpha platform will decrease output by 14 per cent. This will cost around £80 million a month in lost exports, not to mention the revenue that would have gone to the Exchequer. Clearly money spent on safety is money well spent.

Gradually the oil companies are recognizing the value of well-informed and trained union representatives. What we bitterly resent is the death or injury that has to occur to persuade them of the justice of our case.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of those injured or killed. At the same time we demand that the Department of Energy and the oil companies take a responsible position and put the lives of their employees before Britain's balance of payments or the pursuit of profit.

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The author is offshore organizer for MSF.

Roger Spiller puts a trade union view of the Piper Alpha tragedy

## Making the oil rigs safer

Francois Heisbourg

## Europe's own Nato pillar

Today, as in previous decades, the defence of Western Europe and of the United States is difficult to conceive without a substantial physical US conventional and nuclear force in Europe within the framework of a political-strategic alliance. The lessons of geography — Western Europe's lack of strategic depth — and of history — the cost of late US intervention in the First and Second World Wars — point in that direction.

But this is only a necessary condition for European and American security, not a sufficient one: a successful future for the Atlantic Alliance depends on a higher degree of European involvement in defining and creating the conditions of its own security within the Alliance. This is true vis-à-vis the United States, whose military resources are spread thin and whose public opinion clearly expects an enhanced European role.

The same applies to Western Europe, where the unease created by American conduct at the Reykjavik summit and its aftermath combines with the understandable desire for a greater say in security affairs. This is where the gradual building-up of a European pillar can contribute to the regeneration of the Atlantic Alliance. The rationale for such a pillar could be summarized as follows:

- As an instrument for improving and unifying European defence efforts within the Alliance it could contribute to a better balance in terms of burden-sharing and compensate, at least in part, for US force reductions.

- As a means of providing a unified European response in the face of Soviet attempts to split the European allies it would consolidate the political base of the Alliance, not least in West Germany which is at the centre of this challenge.

- Last but not least, the European pillar would be a logical corollary to ventures leading to the creation of a single, unified European market after 1992, not unlike the US continental-scale market.

These are lofty goals but, despite a good deal of talk, relatively few practical achievements can be pointed to: the establishment of a French-German Defence Council, the co-ordination of the European naval presence in the Gulf, the adoption in October 1987 of a platform on European security

interests are some of these achievements. Although they are not unimportant in themselves, they remain nevertheless modest in the overall picture. The process of regeneration of the Alliance clearly needs speeding up.

Four pragmatic steps, achievable within a relatively brief time span (three or four years) could produce such an acceleration.

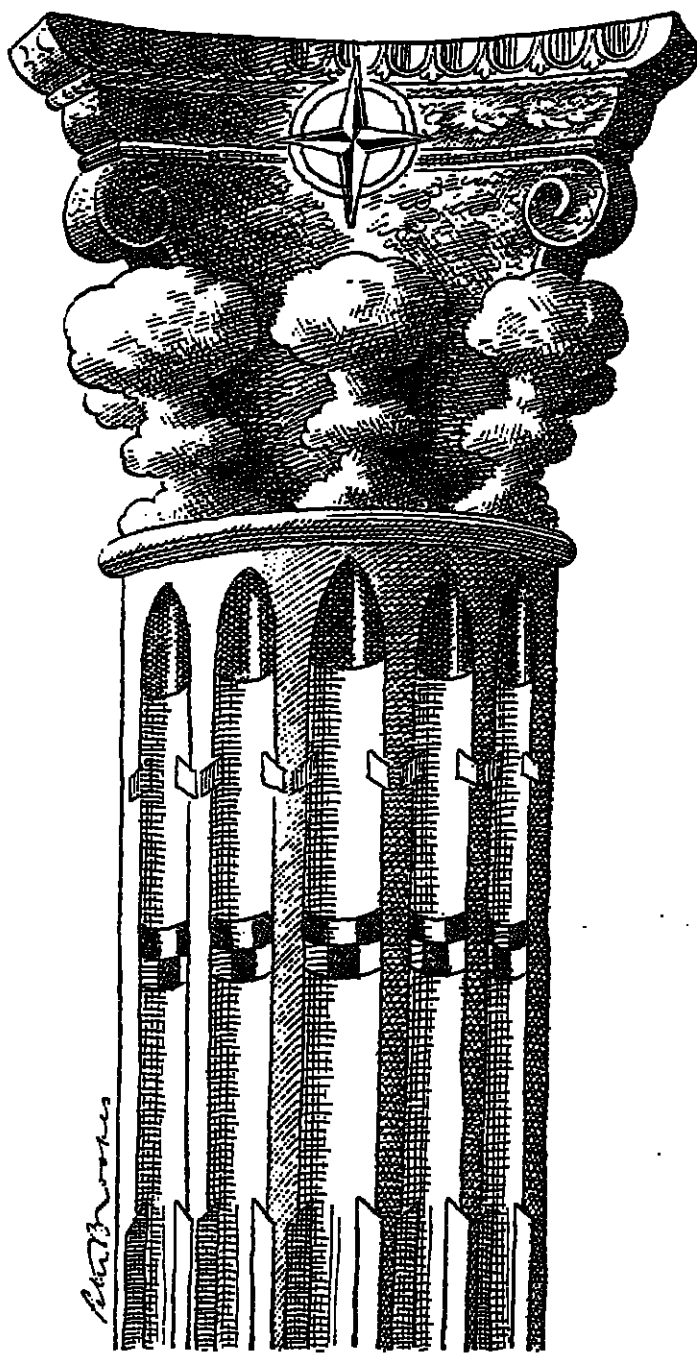
The challenges of the present age should compel the Atlantic Alliance to embark on a rethinking of its political aims and strategy: such an exercise should be undertaken at the political level and cover the same sort of ground as the Harmel report of 1967, pulling together political objectives and security policy, deterrence and arms control. If successful, this effort, which could be initiated by a "wise men's" group in the early stages of the new US administration, would help re-make the Alliance relevant to public opinion.

This kind of proposal, much criticized by parts of the bureaucracy, but supported by major foreign policy practitioners, is even more necessary today than its predecessor was in the mid-1960s, when the West had to cope with the shift from the brink of open confrontation with a militarily aggressive Soviet Union — the Berlin crises and Cuba — to the beginnings of a less warlike co-existence.

Such an exercise need not necessarily signal a major revision of the political bases of the Alliance: after all, the first Harmel report is a robust document which may simply require an update. However, a blanket refusal to think anew would be a sign that the Alliance runs the risk of becoming a political dinosaur: surely, it should not be impossible to do today what we did some twenty years ago.

After the rethinking we need institutional reform of Nato. For a variety of reasons — its integrated military commands yet its proclaimed existence of a single European "strategic area"; if that is the case, France will have to associate itself more closely with allied defence planning and formally harmonize its strategy with that of its allies.

The procedure to achieve such co-operation could be simple: defence ministers should meet in the framework of the Council, thereby abolishing the need for



the existing separate forum, the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) on which France does not sit. The bodies now run from the defence priorities, these should be co-ordinated. France is burdened with an over-ambitious 1987-91 military programme; because of the 1982 Falklands war, Britain has put off a number of difficult choices which must be faced soon: West Germany faces a convergence of drastic demographic constraints and costly new programmes such as the Eurofighter.

It would make sense for the three principal European countries to be forced, in the next few years, to embark on fundamental reviews of their defence priorities, these should be co-ordinated. France is burdened with an over-ambitious 1987-91 military programme; because of the 1982 Falklands war, Britain has put off a number of difficult choices which must be faced soon: West Germany faces a convergence of drastic demographic constraints and costly new programmes such as the Eurofighter.

It would make sense for the three principal European countries to be forced, in the next few years, to embark on fundamental reviews of their defence priorities, these should be co-ordinated. France is burdened with an over-ambitious 1987-91 military programme; because of the 1982 Falklands war, Britain has put off a number of difficult choices which must be faced soon: West Germany faces a convergence of drastic demographic constraints and costly new programmes such as the Eurofighter.

three countries to co-ordinate the timing and content of such reviews. This would be a defence breakthrough and contribute greatly to a real European pillar. In the present economic and political climate, particularly when the US is slashing its military budget, the Europeans cannot be expected to increase defence spending beyond current rates; but they definitely can, and should, start to rationalize their military spending.

Finally we need to rationalize arms procurement. With the same objective of better value for money in mind, the European defence ministers should give new impetus to two basic proposals which they began discussing in 1987:

- Competitive bidding for weapons and equipment should progressively become the norm, beginning with the least politically sensitive items (sub-systems, spares, ammunition). Such a decision would fit with the logic of the 1992 European single market.

- Establishing an agency, similar to that in the US, to avoid duplication of military R&D by pooling part of R&D resources.

These initiatives should be undertaken in close consultation with the United States, which may well be embarking on major reforms of its own arms procurement process during the next administration. Indeed, European measures should facilitate, rather than hinder, transatlantic co-operation on arms procurement, building on the foundations laid by the 1985 "Nunn amendments".

Here again, the Alliance can at least make sure it is getting a better return on its defence investment: a "better defence" is required rather than simply more money for defence. Indeed, in the increasingly vocal debate on burden-sharing, Nato would be well advised to focus on the output generated by military budgets — effective systems developed, equipment produced, levels of readiness, sustainability and training achieved — rather than to emphasize input, as is the case today ("how much money is allocated to defence?").

The now classic horror stories of waste, and sometimes worse, in American arms procurement clearly demonstrate that more attention should be paid to how our money is spent. In this respect, a few leaves could well be taken from the Western European book.

None of these steps is revolutionary. All can be undertaken within a few years, in a politically practical schedule. They, and other measures, should however be embarked upon without much further delay if we are to benefit from, rather than be blown about by, the winds of change.

Changes in the Soviet Union and Mr Gorbachev's positive international image have had a deep impact on Western public opinion. The West's defence efforts are affected both by these new public perceptions and by economic constraints. The Soviet military capability, particularly in the conventional field, has never been more awesome, yet Nato as a whole, and many of its members in particular, continue to hang on to methods of defence spending which ensure an unacceptably high level of waste.

Alliances can die of crises, external or internal; but they can also simply fade into irrelevance. This is the real risk at a time when a sense of direction has never been more necessary. The choice is not between reform on the one hand, the status quo on the other, but rather between change and breakdown.

However, positive change will not come about of its own accord. The nations concerned have to decide to build the European pillar of the Alliance on a priority basis. France and West Germany have been making the right noises and some of the right moves. Both would no doubt be ready to do more but they are constrained by the need to face other issues: for France to sort out its domestic political situation; for West Germany, arms control and modernization problems.

Conversely Britain, with its political stability, would appear to be in a position to take a leading role which it does not seem to be exploiting to the full. The British "window of opportunity" will not remain open indefinitely as the French and West Germans jointly, and inevitably, reassess themselves — a process that would mean further delays in regenerating the Alliance. The ball is therefore very much in the British court.

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The author is Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

## The shame of Risley

The report by Judge Stephen Tumim, Chief Inspector of Prisons, on Risley Remand Centre in Cheshire is devastating, amounting to a virtual condemnation of the whole institution.

The conditions, he says, are "squalid", "totally unacceptable" and should be "wholly condemned". All the male wings are "profoundly depressing", with an "aggressive physical environment" and an "overall lack of human dignity".

The Inspector says that prisoners spend too long in their cells, have no purposeful activity and that visitors are treated discourteously: some of the staff are inadequate, management poor and hygiene unsatisfactory; and, most important, the Home Office directive on the prevention of suicides has not been carried out.

The report jolted the Home Secretary into action. He hurried to issue a statement promising action on all the Inspector's recommendations. A programme of "refurbishment and improvement of sanitation" is being carried out in the areas singled out for greatest criticism: action had already been taken, among other things, to improve hygiene and management and to ensure that the prevention of suicide would be given a "high priority".

These prisoners, it must be remembered, have not been convicted of any offence. Many, in fact, will be found not guilty and many others will be convicted of an offence deemed by the courts to be insufficiently serious to warrant a prison sentence, or at least shorter than the time already spent in custody on remand. But that is another issue, and for another time.

What is important now is that action of some kind is actually taken. While it would be churlish not to welcome Mr Hurd's placatory response, it must be said that he and at least his four predecessors could have acted years ago to remove this blight from our penal system. People have known for years that conditions at Risley and elsewhere are "squalid", "appalling" and "totally unacceptable".

How else, after all, did that particular institution come to be called "grisly Risley"? It was a grisly place when I visited it some years ago. As I reported to the then Home Secretary, it was grossly overcrowded. Prisoners were sleeping on the floor on ripped and tattered foam mattresses beneath broken windows through which a biting wind and swirling snow rushed in.

Others drew attention to the squalor. In 1986, the Prison Officers Association called on the Home Secretary to take "urgent action" to prevent this "huge stick of dynamite" from exploding into violence that would endanger the lives of prisoners and staff. The riots

that were prophesied occurred, even among women prisoners.

It is true that some improvements were made. The number of prisoners was slightly reduced, but none of the changes was sufficient. Nor, I suspect, will those resulting from the current condemnation. The fact that Judge Tumim's condemnation — except that relating to the prevention of suicide — has been made for years is a reflection on the inadequacies of the monitoring of prison conditions: or, to be more accurate, of the Government's response to justified criticism.

Even the official system of inspection is inadequate. However thorough and professional investigations may be, and they are both, they are not carried out often enough. Originally it was intended that every penal establishment would be fully inspected at least once every five years — at the rate of 24 a year. Not that many, yet in 1983 even that figure was reduced to 12 and raised only to 14 the following year after considerable pressure on the Government.

The result today is that the lazy, sloppy and uncaring management who unhappily exist in some of our prisons can relax in the knowledge that their turn to be "turned over" by Judge Tumim comes but once every eight to ten years.

Inspections must be more frequent. That means the Inspectorate must be given more money and manpower. The Home Secretary should not need to be prodded to do the right thing. But obviously he does. Otherwise why did he await the Inspector's report to tell him what he already knew before taking even the limited action that he has?

We clearly cannot rely on the Home Secretary to be the guardian of prisoners' rights. Other means are needed, and they are available. One would be to institute a better complaints procedure for prisoners. Something along the lines of that of the Parliamentary Commissioner would be useful. He already investigates some complaints relating to prison. These inquiries are confined to allegations of maladministration, but they are thorough. Were he given a wider remit we might see some dramatic changes.

One day it will happen. In the meantime, the least we could do would be to agree that prisoners, whatever other disadvantages they might have to suffer, ought to be given unadulterated food and live in hygienic conditions.

If the Government will not set the Ombudsman loose, it should send in the environmental health officer. It will be a small step towards the "openness of mind and approach" to our prisons promised by Willie Whitelaw and towards a more civilized state.

JULY 8 ON THIS DAY 1816

**MR. SHERIDAN**  
The death of Sheridan (1751-1816) prompted a long obituary in The Times, one compounded of eulogy, censure and moralizing.

It is with deep regret we announce to our readers the death of the Right Honourable RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, who, after a severe and protracted illness, expired yesterday at noon.

The astonishing talent for observation, and knowledge of character, displayed by Mr Sheridan in his dramatic writings, will surprise us more when we recall that he composed *The Rivals* whilst yet a boy, and that his *School for Scandal* was written at four and twenty. Those who are best acquainted with the history of the stage for an hundred years preceding their appearance, can best appreciate the obligations of the public to an author, whose dialogue has the spirit of reality without its coarseness, whose sentiment is animated, his wit refined.

If we pursue Mr Sheridan into political life, we shall have equal cause to admire the vigour and versatility of his genius. The field on every side of him was occupied by the ablest men who had appeared in Parliament for more than half a century. Burke, Pitt and Fox — these were formidable checks to the rise of an adventurer not recommended by character nor connexion, beset by a thousand mischievous habits — crusted over with indolence and depressed by fortune.

He distinguished himself amongst them by witling with success the various weapons for which they were respectively celebrated. In flow of diction he yielded not even to Mr Pitt — in force and acuteness he might justly be compared with the great Opposition Leader — while in splendour of imagination he equaled Burke, and in its use and management far excelled him.

It has been made a reproach by some persons, in lamenting Mr Sheridan's death, that "his friends" had not done more for him. We freely and conscientiously declare it as our opinion that had Mr Sheridan enjoyed ten reappearances of Cornwall instead of one, he would not have died in affluence. He never would have attained to comfort or independence in his fortune — a man who is intellectually thoughtful of consequences, and calls to repent — who knows not when he squanders money, because he feels not those obligations which constitute or direct its uses such a man it is impossible to rescue from destruction. But what friends are blamed for neglecting Mr Sheridan? What friendships did he ever form? The fact is, that a life of conviviality and interdependence seldom favours the cultivation of those better tastes and affections which are necessary to the existence of intimate friendship.

We have now performed an honest duty, and in many particulars an humbling and most distressing one we have found it. Never were such gifts as those which Providence showered upon Mr Sheridan so abused — never were talents so miserably perverted.

School Government  
From Mr M...  
Sir, Your letter today entitled "To be a Governor" has been received. It is the only letter we have received from a Governor in your country in this way.  
Your point about the uniform and effective under the a...  
DES will be welcomed by a majority of those gov...





1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

## OILMEN AND HEROES

The story of North Sea oil began as an improbably perilous adventure. It reached peaks of highly publicized success. It has recently adopted an apparently routine formula in which the accountant was the bigger star than the roustabout. But as Wednesday night's disaster demonstrates so clearly, the danger never left.

In one night the industry death toll doubled. The extraction of North Sea oil and gas has reclaimed its reputation as the most dangerous way of earning a living, and the ripples will extend far beyond the twisted remains of Piper Alpha.

Once upon a time, the mines used to be the most hazardous means of earning a wage. But the latest figures show that oil rigs are nine times as dangerous as the modern pits. The construction industry has safety problems. The oil rigs are eleven times as dangerous.

The wages paid to the men on the rigs have often generated jealousy. Even the unskilled can bring home £600 a week to spend in their fortnight's holiday every month. But yesterday's closure of Piper Alpha and its associated rigs will cost the country £80 million a month in lost exports, and more than £300 million a year in lost tax revenue. The country is in debt to the men who daily risk their lives in unpleasant conditions to win this national resource from under the sea.

It is also in debt to those whose heroism in the burning seas around the rig saved lives at the cost of their own. Survivors spoke of their horror yesterday at seeing the men who had pulled them from the sea minutes earlier themselves dying in a ball of exploding gas, their bodies silhouetted against the searing flames. This horror must be translated into the sadness and respect of the whole country.

This debt to the men of the oilfields must now include a determination to find out exactly how the Piper Alpha disaster occurred.

It must also reinforce official determination that the most dangerous of occupations should be made as safe as is humanly possible.

The first may be more difficult than the second. The rig is badly damaged. Potential witnesses near the seat of the original explosion are likely to be among the first to have died. But it ought, at least, to be possible to ascertain why it took half an hour before the first may-day call was transmitted.

The inquiries following the disaster should also shed light on whether the union officials who yesterday renewed their calls for a health and safety inspectorate separate from the Department of Energy are justified. Their case, which was expressed in a minority report attached to the 1980 report on offshore safety, is that the closeness of interest of the safety officials in the department and the officials of the oil companies is itself dangerous, although they are not able to point to any instance where this has been specifically threatening.

Union officials also complain that they do not have the same rights over safety as their fellows onshore. They do not, for example, have any statutory union safety representatives or safety committee. There is no official safety training levy. The department is also blamed for keeping to itself the result of safety studies on lifejackets.

These and other charges of putting oil production above life-preservation are bound to resurface in the coming weeks. They were there in the adventurous beginnings and they will be there till the last barrel is drawn. The general attention to safety in the North Sea is extremely high — amounting in some companies to an obsession. But it is not always enough. On Wednesday night it was not enough. The public inquiry, announced with proper speed by the Government yesterday, must spare no effort to discover what more might have been done to keep disaster at bay.

## TOO MANY WAGES COUNCILS

The Confederation of British Industry is calling for an industry-by-industry review of Britain's 26 statutory wages councils. The least the Government can do is agree to it.

The councils, which set minimum hourly rates for about 2.25 million workers, represent the last vestige of pay controls. Wise men in equal numbers from employers and unions, with a few independent members holding the ring, sit in judgement on the minimum levels of pay in a variety of the lower-paid service industries.

The minimum wages which the councils set range from just under £2 an hour to about £2.33, so they can hardly be said to be forcing powerless employers to pay their workforces to live a life of Riley. Nor do the employers claim, for the most part, that they do.

At the same time, because the wage rates set by the councils are minima very few employees are actually paid as little as that. So the councils are not now very important as a defence against the sweat-shop conditions which they were originally set up in 1909 to prevent. Moreover, since then social security has developed as a much more effective protection against exploitation and destitution. The inevitable reaction on the romantic left at the threatened reversal of a Labour victory nearly eight decades ago is misplaced in today's circumstances.

In practice the councils can work against the best interests of the industries they serve by preventing the kind of wage flexibility which is vital to using the country's manpower resources effectively. Even if an employer is paying none of his employees as little as the minimum — which is not unusual — he may find it difficult not to give a percentage rise in line with the minimum to all. The cost of providing incentives to particular groups of

workers, buying out existing work practices or recognizing regional differences can become unacceptably expensive.

Much depends on how the councils interpret their brief. Their statutory obligation since the 1986 reform is to set pay levels on the basis of the likely employment effects and establish minima on the basis of regional pay rates rather than those in central London. Employers in some industries are satisfied that this is happening. Others, such as those in the large hotel and catering sector, are unhappy about the role of independent council members.

So far the Government has been content to take its cue from employers in the industries concerned. In the course of the review which led up to the Wages Act of 1986 the CBI told the Government that many of its members, especially the smaller ones, did not want to see the councils abolished because they offered a low-cost method of pay settlement.

But what they did want was the councils' powers restricted so that, for instance, retailers would not have to pay the equivalent of a full day's wages if they employed staff to work for just an hour or two on a Sunday. The 1986 Act achieved this by restricting councils to setting a single minimum hourly rate for employees over 21, a single overtime rate and a single limit to charges for accommodation.

The Government would have done better to have had the courage of its convictions then and abolished the councils entirely. Having failed to do that, it should now accede to the CBI's request and review the councils' operation in each of the industries where they operate. Although ministers cannot use the existing legislation to have second thoughts and end them entirely there is a strong case for limiting the councils' role to a smaller number of industries.

## MEMBERS ONLY

The behaviour of British football supporters during last month's European Championships in West Germany scarred the international image of this country and again raised what was once an internal matter for a sport to the status of a Government priority. Given the failure of the football authorities to control the situation themselves, and the growing sense from their public utterances that they had no real intention of controlling it, ministerial intervention should come as no surprise.

Most of the ideas which flowed from this week's soccer summit in Downing Street are extensions of those already tried out with varying results. Restrictions on the consumption of alcohol in public places might just help to curb the general level of drunkenness which lies at the root of so much football violence. Increased use of closed circuit television among the crowds reflects the success which this has had already.

The controversial measure proposed by the Government is the compulsory introduction of club membership cards — without which no spectator would be admitted. When linked through a central computer, the cards would ensure that supporters could be monitored — and their right to enter a ground either temporarily or permanently withdrawn. Following legislation in the next Parliamentary session, the scheme could be operating by the 1989-90 football season.

The opposition of the football authorities was predictable. Some eight million people are attenders of football matches but most of them go only two or three times a year. If these

irregulars had to go to the bother of applying for membership they might very well stay at home instead.

Another argument put forward by the authorities is that domestic football violence has been decreasing. Despite sporadic outbursts every year, the gradual improvement has been reflected in increased attendance — up by five per cent nationally in 1986-7 and a further two per cent in 1987-88. This improvement would have won general recognition (so they say) but for the scenes at the European Championships.

That is all very well. But the reputation of British football has plunged too low. The smell of lazy self-interest is too great.

Some more imaginative self-interest is required. The League should welcome the Government's intervention. The introduction of a "golden card" which would allow fans to enter football grounds nationwide ought to be an opportunity for the more enterprising clubs to compete for members — not just from hardcore supporters but from those who might be attracted by other benefits.

The result should be an accelerated improvement in crowd behaviour as the clubs begin to exert some control over the spectators they admit. They may risk losing some of their "fair weather" supporters — but they will have to find compensatory ways to ensure that this does not occur. At first regulars may feel penalized through no fault of their own. But the day when football is never found in newspapers except on the sports pages should bring them satisfaction in return.

## School governors

From Mr Muhammad Haque  
Sir, Your letter today (June 27), entitled "To be a governor", is to be welcomed since yours is perhaps the only serious newspaper in Britain to have highlighted the importance of the role of a school governor in your comment space in this way.

Your point about the need for a "uniform and effective system of training", under the aegis of the DES, will be welcomed by the vast majority of those governors who

are going to take part for the first time following the reorganisation this September.

The experience which our members — resident across greater London — have is that the local education authorities as well as the DES are quite behind in creating the necessary training programmes for the new governors. Yet it will be these two sources — the LEAs and the DES — who will expect, otherwise justifiably, the new governing bodies to perform to the maximum level of efficiency and towards the "clearer" goal.

M. HAQUE (Secretary,  
London Collective of Black  
Governors),  
c/o Asian Education Advisory  
Service,  
15 New Road, E1.  
June 27.

## Plea for logic over secrets

From Mr Anthony Cavendish  
Sir, Sir Douglas Dods-Parker's letter (July 7) is timely and sensible.

Whilst everybody who has worked in the intelligence services will agree their work should be secret, there is no point in forbidding officers to write accounts of their service 30 and 40 years later when any secrets are cold.

The plethora of injunctions which have been showered on newspapers quoting from my book, *Inside Intelligence*, even though the Attorney General has said he does not contend that I have breached security, is a result of the confusion caused by Peter Wright's book, *Spycatcher*, published at a time when the Official Secrets Act had still not been revised.

Now that the White Paper on official secrets has been published (report, June 30) nobody from the intelligence community will complain about it, but most will hope that logic will prevail and a vetting system for memoirs which reveal no secrets will be introduced.

Yours etc.  
ANTHONY CAVENDISH,  
Cotton Club,  
69 St James's Street, SW1.  
July 7.

## Airbus tragedy

From Instructor Lieutenant Commander Robert Moss, RN (ret)  
Sir, Your leader, "Beyond the Aegis" (July 5), is a masterly exposition of the current state of the art of action information — that is to say, the rapid, co-ordinated representation of the state of enemy and friendly forces on and under water and in the air.

It was developed by the British Navy from small beginnings early in the Hitler war; the United States Navy developed its "combat information" along closely parallel lines.

One can but hope that critics, whether from the East or from the West, whether combatants or non-involved observers reporting via press, radio, or television, will heed the wisdom of your concluding paragraph.

A commander's decision during the heat of battle depends not upon "facts" allegedly substantiated by hindsight, but upon his own appreciation of the "balance of probabilities" at the moment when he makes it.

More modern technology will bring more improvement still, but instantaneous certainty never was nor ever will be a parameter of warfare in general; in particular it is not to be expected when an unidentified aircraft becomes involved in a sea action. Likewise, no critic has any moral right to impugn opprobrium to those treading the "path of duty", whether or not it be "the way to glory".

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT MOSS,  
Seven Bells, Botesdale,  
Diss, Norfolk.

## Flowers on the greens

From Mr B. P. Tickle  
Sir, The problem posed by Mr M. E. Cole (July 5) for the protection of rare orchids on his golf course can be readily solved by the club committee.

The rules of golf, as approved by the R & A, in rule 2 of part A of appendix 1 to the rules, allow the committee to make local rules to assist preservation of the course by defining areas as "ground under repair" from which play is prohibited and from which the player shall lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length.

Yours faithfully,  
B. P. TICKLE,  
Hillbrook Court,  
Ja Royal Chase,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.  
July 5.

From Mr David Stubbs  
Sir, Your correspondent, Mrs Priscilla Mackay (June 24), should be pleased to hear that since the beginning of this year the Golf Course Wildlife Trust has been established with the express aim of promoting nature conservation on golf courses.

Her suggestion for conservation awards to golf clubs is very much part of our programme and we hope to be announcing such a scheme in the near future. This will cover both the many excellent existing golf courses around the country, and also new golf courses designed and managed with wildlife clearly in mind.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID STUBBS (Conservation Officer),  
Golf Course Wildlife Trust,  
19 Stratford Place, W1.  
June 27.

## Skulduggery

From Mr Guy Yeoman  
Sir, Further to Dr Freeman-Grenville's letter (June 28), I write as one who had the good fortune to be present at the great baraza at Kalenga in Tanganyika in 1954, when H. E. Sir Edward Twining handed the presumed skull of Chief Mikawa back to his grandson, Chief Adiam Sapi Mikawa.

The official history of the calamitous defeat of the Germans by Mikawa at Lugalo, his subsequent pursuit by Captain von Prince's men, his suicide, decapitation, the despatch of his head to the Bremen Völkerkunde Museum, its inclusion in the Treaty of Versailles, its apparently successful repossession by Sir Edward and its ceremonial return to the

## Treading warily in Middle East

From Sir John Barnes  
Sir, The forthcoming Lambeth Conference has, by all accounts, a full, not to say crowded, agenda.

The Anglican Church faces many problems of ecclesiastical concern: the ordination of women, relations with other communions, even homosexual clergy.

But it seems likely that the assembled bishops will also want to discuss questions of international politics, including the Middle East. Certainly, no one would want to deny the right of Christian leaders to apply moral judgments to secular matters. But equally one can hope that they will do so with wisdom and discretion, and preferably behind closed doors.

The Christian constituency in the Middle East consists, of course, almost exclusively of Arabs. In the present troubles in the West Bank and Gaza there is, therefore, an understandable tendency for Christian spokesmen to be supportive of Palestinian Arabs and critical of Israel.

This is not the place to argue the rights and wrongs in any detail. One sympathises with Arab frustrations, even if violent revolt is not the best way to liquidate them. But one must also try to put oneself in Israel's shoes: a small, vulnerable country, surrounded by hostile neighbours, with a limited population, unable to afford two conscript forces, one for frontier defence, another for internal policing. Instant reactions are thus often required from inexperienced young commanders and all too often the cycle of attack and defence has led to tragic casualties among teenagers on both sides.

Nor can Christians ignore the malign influence of extreme Islamic fundamentalism, which was recognised by the Arabs themselves, at their Amman summit in

November, as the main destabilising factor in the Middle East.

More important though, just now, than the merits of the case is the expediency of the moment. The heart must be guided by the head. Even for those who disagree with Israeli reactions and policies, nothing is to be gained by mega-phone diplomacy. Public condemnations may relieve one's own feelings, but in the Middle East they are likely only to strengthen the advocates of intransigence on either side. This is especially so when Israeli elections are due within five months and the peace process is at issue in them. It is not time to arouse resentment, better the conciliatory carrot than the counter-productive stick.

One must therefore strongly hope that the Fathers in conclave will confine their public utterances to strictly ecclesiastical concerns and not seek to pontificate on delicate political issues. "Land for peace" is an emotive slogan. But security cannot be guaranteed by boundaries alone. Peace can never be achieved unless, on both sides of any boundary, there is recognition, good will and confidence, unless there is mutual toleration between all the faiths and communities of the Middle East and a determination to build their future within a framework of common understanding and co-operation for the good of all.

Promotion of this moral and religious objective, rather than partisan utterances on political matters, should surely be the aim of Christian leadership. May the Lambeth Conference recognise this and not inflame Middle Eastern tinder by injudicious statements.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BARNES,  
Hampton Lodge,  
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.  
July 5.

## Women priests

From Mr Gerald Priestland  
Sir, It is not for me to speak on behalf of the Methodist, United Reformed and other denominations to whom the denial of ordination to Anglican women must seem almost incomprehensible — as it does to most independent believers who live in partnership with a member of the opposite sex. But I should like to point out that in the Religious Society of Friends (popularly known as Quakers) we have worshipped God for more than three centuries without any priesthood of either sex.

Where the truth actually lies, I have no idea. But I do know that when I visit Canada, the USA and Denmark — to name but three countries where I have been so embarrassed recently — one of the first questions I am asked is why we tolerate such behaviour. And, especially, why we allow young things to travel to other countries.

Why on earth do we? We are, after all, an island. Why not give

our courts the power to punish drunken violence by a ban of, say, up to two years on travelling abroad. The offender's passport would be surrendered, and any attempt to travel contrary to the ban would be contempt of court punishable by imprisonment.

Such action would show our foreign friends that we were in earnest in seeking to spare them the excesses of our boozing fringe, for which the residents of Benidorm as well as Frankfurt would be grateful.

I accept that this might do nothing to solve the problem; but at least we would be seen to be trying to confine it to our own country while we debated underlying causes.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TERRY, Principal,  
Halesowen College,  
Whittingham Road,  
Halesowen, West Midlands.  
July 1.

## Power to punish

From the Principal of Halesowen College  
Sir, Since returning last week from a fortnight in North America I have read much argument about the causes of hooliganism. Dr O'Brien (article, June 21) blames the lack of a war, Mr Hattersley and the President of the Methodist Conference (report, June 25) blame Mr Thatcher; Mr Ronald Butt (article, June 30) blames "the likes of Mr Hattersley".

Where the truth actually lies, I have no idea. But I do know that when I visit Canada, the USA and Denmark — to name but three countries where I have been so embarrassed recently — one of the first questions I am asked is why we tolerate such behaviour. And, especially, why we allow young things to travel to other countries.

Why on earth do we? We are, after all, an island. Why not give

## Slow turn-around

From Mr W. D. Brown  
Sir, It may be that our experience with requests to the DVLC at Swansea is fortuitous and unique. If not, one has to question the efficiency of the expensive data retrieval system there installed.

On May 20 my wife's car was struck a glancing blow by another driver who did not stop to ascertain the damage.

Our local police station told us that they were not permitted to trace the registration for us direct and that we would have to apply by post to Swansea — application by telephone, they said, was not accepted. We wrote accordingly and after an interval of some 10 days received a printed form requesting prior payment of a fee of £3.50. A cheque was mailed on June 1.

Nothing more was heard until June 22. When just as I was, resignedly, about to ask for cancellation of the request and repayment of the fee, I received a form dated June 20 giving the identity of the registration. By that time the repair had been settled with the insurers.

Yours faithfully,  
W. D. BROWN,  
High Rews Farm,  
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.  
June 28.

## Pakistan's identity

From Mr M. Zubair Ali  
Sir, In claiming that "geographically, culturally, linguistically and perhaps even economically, Pakistan remains an integral part of the Indian subcontinent" and that "partition cannot sever these affinities", Karan Thapar ("Pakistan's identity crisis", July 6) echoes the values of those who have not reconciled themselves to the establishment of Pakistan.

The "Objectives Resolution", moved in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan by the first Prime Minister under Quid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, made it clear that "Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and Sunnah".

This resolution has been enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan and the Shariah Ordinance has only implemented these objectives and this constitutional provision.

Yours faithfully,  
M. ZUBAIR ALI,  
Embassy of Pakistan,  
Information Division,  
35 Lowndes Square, SW1.  
July 6.

## Skirting the issue

From Ms Anne Clowes  
Sir, Having been at Henley Royal Regatta last Thursday, it would appear to me that the stewards are exercising double standards in the appearance of those being admitted to the stewards' enclosure.

My skirt, which was on the knee, was subject to a caution on entry, but I found myself surrounded by pony tails and earrings — worn by men. I commend the requirement to maintain standards, but should this not apply to both sexes?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE CLOWES,  
19 Hartismere Road,  
Fulham, SW6.  
July 5.

## Wormhoudt battle

From Mr J. R. Vaudrey  
Sir, The article by Mr David Nicholson-Lord (June 25) recalls a poignant event but fails to provide an adequate picture of the significance of Wormhoudt and the fighting there on that day 48 years ago by the 2nd Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Wormhoudt itself was the objective of the German attack because it is the confluence of no fewer than seven roads.

Although at that time we did not realize the importance of the battle, the battalion had in fact held up the enemy along the Cassel-Dunkirk road long enough to ensure the safety of thousands of other troops. We had made a far superior armoured force fight hard and had inflicted so many casualties that the Germans made little further attempt that day to penetrate to the east of the town.

It is good to know that a memorial to those brave men, mostly from the 2nd Battalion, murdered by the SS has been erected near Esquelbecq. There is also at Wormhoudt a neat cemetery where officers and men killed in the battle are buried.

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. VAUDREY,  
The Old Manor House,  
Church Square,  
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.  
June 28.

## All eventualities

From Mr Reg Cooper  
Sir, I have received a letter from an advertising agency selling space in a ladies' magazine.

At the head of the letter I am addressed by my name, followed by "Esq". The letter starts, "Dear Sir/Madam".

Since I am not personally known to the writer, would it not have been polite to give me the benefit of the doubt?

Yours faithfully,  
REG COOPER,  
(Production Secretary),  
The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children,  
14 Abingdon Road, W8.  
June 29.

## Skirting the issue

From Ms Anne Clowes  
Sir, Having been at Henley Royal Regatta last Thursday, it would appear to me that the stewards are exercising double standards in the appearance of those being admitted to the stewards' enclosure.

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Yours faithfully,  
ANNE CLOWES,  
19 Hartismere Road,  
Fulham, SW6.  
July 5.











## THE ARTS

## Blatant murder

"She equates incomprehensibility with stature", said Gerald (Deonholm Elliot), the senior civil servant in David Mercer's 1968 play *Let's Murder Vivaldi* (BBC1), as he described the qualities of his would-be mistress, Julie (Clenda Jackson) to his wife, Monica (Gwen Watford).

Once, incomprehensibility was almost equated with stature in television drama. Now, excepting for noble oddities such as *The Singing Detective*, rote espionage obscurities, and a certain vogue for actors mumbling, much television drama is only too obvious, even without publicity hand-outs, interviews and protesting MPs labouring a play's unmissable points before it is shown.

On *The Eve of Publication*, last week's play in this most welcome series of Mercer repeats, used a creative cut-up structure and a witty underlining twist of an ending to give a more obscure but much more interesting view of that

## TELEVISION

over-played figure, the drunken writer. *Let's Murder Vivaldi* attempted to revive an even more well-worn subject, sexual infidelity. The twist this time was that the avowed exploits of Gerald proved to be hot air.

Of course, the wife knew all along: "You're a dedicated, bewildered wreck with pathetic sexual fantasies that are paralysing you out of your wits." The crude sub-Freudianism of some of the knife-play was embarrassingly dated, but the wit and brio of Mercer's dialogue, and the distinguished cast carried the day.

The last programme in the series *Exiles* (BBC2), about the brilliant Paris-based Iranian photo-journalist Abbas gave us a fascinating view of a clash of cultures. The first programme in the new series *Esther Interviews* (BBC1), in which Esther Rantzen interviewed that self-confessed and successful "people pleaser" Mary Tyler Moore gave us a fascinating view of a clash of teeth. It was very brave of Ms Rantzen to do a face-to-face with someone with even more, if straighter, dental charms, especially when they were set in an apparently unaging surround.

Andrew Hislop

From the frenzy of New York's first international arts festival, Holly Hill extracts a message of hope

## Underdogs bark back

## NEW YORK THEATRE

Good times, bad times. The First International New York Festival of the Arts gave an ecstatic welcome to its stellar Broadway attraction, Joe Dowling's Gate Theatre production of *Juno and the Paycock* (Golden Theatre), in the same week that five Broadway shows folded. Just across the street from *Juno*, Judy Kuhn, David Carroll and Philip Casoff — the electrifying young talent who made the American version of *Chess* terrific entertainment — sang the show's 68th and last performance.

It might not have happened. At the press preview of *Carrie*, two critics from prominent daily newspapers had the following exchange: "Now aren't you sorry you panned *Chess*?"

"I was just thinking that, if only I'd seen this first, I would have enjoyed *Chess* so much more."

While the usual post-Tony Awards fallout was occurring (the closed shows also included *Macbeth*, the new plays *A Walk in the Woods* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and the long-running *Fences*), the Arts Festival, founded by American Express and overseen by producer Martin E. Segal, boasted some 350 cultural events in more than 55 locations around New York. It will be some time before their overall success can be judged, but scurrying between events during a heat wave, exhausted critics who have never had to cover Edinburgh agreed that it was a hot time in the old town indeed.

Ireland clearly took top honours with Barry McGuire's *I'll Go On* (Newhouse Theatre), and with *Juno*. Also earning kudos were Poland's *Cricot 2* Theatre and the Leningrad Maly Drama Theatre. Tadeusz Kantor's *I Shall Never Return* (La Mama E.T.C.) may be the director's farewell, not only because it contains references to his previous works and can be seen as an evocative, nightmarish summation of Polish history, but also because Kantor is an active figure in the piece. He carts

Coffin carrier: Tadeusz Kantor's summation of Polish history, *I Shall Never Return*, may be his farewell

around his own coffin, watching his apparitions of tyrannical and tyrannized people, draped in black, crumble in the end. The Maly troupe, whose original offering of *Brothers and Sisters* was cancelled due to funding problems, sparked interest in return visits with *Stars in the Morning Sky* (American Place Theatre), a

sardonic and poignant play by Alexandr Galin about prostitutes exiled from Moscow during the 1980 Olympic Games.

Among the disappointments of the Festival was the Broadway repertory of *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Ah Wilderness!* (Neil Simon Theatre). Eugene O'Neill's tragedy and comedy

about his real and his idealized family. Starring Colleen Dewhurst and Jason Robards Jr as both sets of parents, the plays had a touching resonance when seen together but fell far short of being the definitive productions hoped for as America's official contribution to O'Neill's centenary.

Most of the 25 offerings I have

"Critics agreed that it was a hot time in the old town indeed"

seen in three weeks have ranged between the purely pedestrian and the plain awful — in other words, par for the course. To the degree that enjoyment of a gruelling marathon is possible, I particularly appreciated encountering the foreign companies never seen here before. Among these was one non-Festival event — Ingmar Bergman's stunning *Hamlet* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Notable as a home-grown, non-Festival event is a revue of 29 skits and songs at the Manhattan Theatre Club. MTC asked a variety of writers to contribute "a scene about whatever it is that makes you laugh or cry or makes you angry about living today."

The result is a jolly two hours and discards thirty minutes whose highlights include a hilarious Ted Tally dialogue between a New York taxi driver whose understanding of English is limited and a frustrated rider, a wicked sketch of arch-conservative Cardinal O'Connor by (who else) Christopher Durang, and a robbery victim's wry reflection on possessions by Arthur Miller.

Coming away from the Festival and additional offerings, I am struck by their frequent juxtaposition of catastrophe and renewal, despair and hope, and by the sense of continuity from country to country. Tadeusz Kantor's Polish peasant woman endlessly cleaning up the debris, *Dubliners* and *New Yorkers* struggling to make urban blight into urban bright, all have in common a determination to find the possible in the impossible and to prevail. Perhaps we needed a reminder of the international resilience of the human spirit. That may be the achievement of the First New York International Festival of the Arts.



Musical mission: Ravi Shankar

Time to forget the flower children

Simon Tait meets Ravi Shankar, due to play at an Asian festival in Britain next week

When Ravi Shankar arrives for his annual London concert these days there is little of the idolatry which greeted him 20 years ago. Then, battalions from the army of love-loving Beatles fans had adopted the sitar virtuoso after George Harrison decided to learn the instrument. At first he was delighted, then appalled.

"The whole issue was most distressing for me," says the 68-year-old pandit, as he is respectfully known now. "I hoped it was the chance to bring our music to a new audience, but I was like some superstar for people who had no real love for our classical music."

When he began giving the performance 32 years ago it was to a rather select audience of British aficionados at the Wigmore Hall, then, in the second, "and" phase, to the Flower Children who seemed somehow to have got him confused with the Maharishi. "For three or four years there was this superficial audience who did not really gain much understanding of the music."

His mission to bring the classical India to the West faltered. His Barbican audiences are now largely white, British and middle class again, but with a growing new element: "Now I would say the audience is 30-35 per cent Asian, and they come for the music."

Even without the backwash of Beatlemania, Ravi Shankar's popularity has steadily grown over the years. He globetrotts, still finding time to serve in India's version of the House of Lords to which he was appointed in 1986. Usually there is no time for more than one two-night visit to Britain a year.

But the pandit has a new mission. He is back again for an unprecedented second "Visit for *Newer Kites* (Hindi for New Ray of Light) which is a week-long event beginning on Monday."

"It has never been tried before, a festival of South Asian music and dance in England, and I want to help where I can."

His contribution will be a master class followed by a concert. "Young Asian people here have no idea of their own culture and I hope this festival will begin to put that right," he said.

Nayee Kiran unexpectedly takes place at the new Hawth arts centre in Crawley, West Sussex. It is an attempt to establish a permanent niche in the British arts scene for the music and dance of South Asia.

The idea came when Sukanya Kotian took her British-born daughter, Anoushka, aged six, to Madras's 10-day arts festival. Sukanya does this every year to help Anoushka understand her roots. Last year she met Crawley's arts administrator, Keith Lancing, there.

"We thought how exciting it would be if an event could be staged in Britain to celebrate the work of performers here, for parents who can't take their children back to India as I can, and to provide a platform to help bring Asian music and dance out of the exotic closet and into the mainstream arts scene in Britain." Keith Lancing, married to an Indian, has been organizing tours and community-based concerts of South Asian music and dance for six years.

Ravi Shankar sees an opportunity for a fourth phase of his cultural crusade to the West. "I would like *Nayee Kiran* to be something which will swell thinking, as being something which will enlarge the awareness of all Asian people in Britain, something which is relevant to a multi-cultural English audience, and be good for all communities."

Nayee Kiran will be at The Hawth, Crawley, West Sussex (0293 553636) from July 11 until July 17.

## Absence of kindness

## LONDON THEATRE

Big Time Gate, Notting Hill

Keith Reddin belongs to a generation of American playwrights newer than Mamet and Richard Nelson but no less adept at jabbing a finger into his country's sores. In this 90-minute play, he finds the ethical void in the heart of a young ambitious businessman.

The incidents in Paul's rise, pause, and resumed rise emerge in the course of about a dozen short scenes set in various well-heeled New York and Washington addresses, and a Middle Eastern jail.

It is here that he is offered, could he only recognize it, a chance to mend his ways. Captured by triumphant revolutionaries at a moment when he is trying to extricate his bank from a commitment to the former regime, Paul is asked by his captor (Commer Akhtar) if there is anything he would be prepared to die for.

Until now, Stephen Hoyer's faultless performance has been showing us the neat, confident money man, always well spoken, seldom altering his intonation. But now his face is puzzled, and even his sweat appears to be doing the unendurable and getting out of control. He frowns as a thought stirs that really there must be something for which he might

By the word divided: Stephen Hoyer and Sharon Holm in *Big Time*

sacrifice his life. "I don't know," he answers.

Reddin is especially good on the deadening absence of kindness in his characters. "You need a haircut," says the prissy colleague (Johnny Myers) come to ransom Paul from the revolutionaries. "We paid a lot of money for you; the least you can do is look good on television."

When Paul returns to his New York apartment and goes so far as to disclose a genuine human feeling, his former girlfriend (Sharon Holm) quietly lets herself out of the door so as not to listen.

There are little faults in the play: his sexual rival Peter, nicely played by John Cagan, is a photo-journalist, and his concern to take

good pictures of dying terrorists is too glib a confirmation of the play's theme.

It is apt that the longer speeches should be devoted to events distanced from real life: the plot of some trivial film, for example, or the bizarre deaths in the family of a cool PR girl. Erin Donovan makes this catalogue of disasters grotesquely funny, but she should not be asked to follow it with a second chapter.

Toby Reisz's fine direction makes sure the lines have room to show their meaning. The occasion is a notable achievement for the Gate and Reddin, a new talent to watch.

Jeremy Kingston

## A little out of balance

## CONCERT

LMP/Glover Queen Elizabeth Hall

Enterprising and well intentioned though it has been, the London Mozart Players' "Two Decades" series has perpetuated an illogical imbalance. Was the inclusion in each concert of three works from the 1780s to just one from the 1980s a statement or a judgement? This final concert also cultivated the phenomenon of the naive programme note, which would have had us believe that "the system of related harmonies" was abolished in the early 20th century and implied that composers have only recently taken again to writing music intended to be listened to. White Robin Holloway's *Idyll* of 1979-80, does fall easily on the ear, that is no infallible mark of lasting quality.

Apart from the occasional predictability of its sequences, *Idyll* is a finely crafted piece, not at all the lazy Delian pastorate suggested by its title. Its longer, fastish second section involves the "unlocking" (Holloway's description) through linear development of the static fragments first exposed in the opening slow music. As usual in Holloway's work,



Jane Glover: relished challenge

there is a clearly defined tonal centre, alluded to throughout by the use of pedal notes, but clinched convincingly in the coda and emphasized at the end with a blatant tonic chord. This is music that flows unaffectedly and idiomatically.

Jane Glover conducted an obviously well-rehearsed performance, with her team of young players clearly relishing the challenge. They were neither as invigorating nor as acutely responsive in the 18th century repertoire, despite the refreshment offered by Dittersdorf's vaguely programmatic, Ovid-inspired symphony, "Acteon transformed into a stag" or by the more familiar Symphony No 84 of Haydn. And admirably cultured and restrained though it was, John Lill's performance of Mozart's A Major Piano Concerto, K414, would have benefited from crisper attack and more varied tonal colours.

Stephen Pettitt

## LONDON DEBUT

Janice Weber St John's, Smith Square

The New York pianist Janice Weber made her British debut with a stupendously heroic programme delivered to a stupendously under-populated hall. Never mind: Miss Weber infused Ives's First Sonata and Liszt's *Transcendental Studies* with a spirit and imagination which will surely attract larger crowds when she returns to London.

The Ives was particularly admirable, for this piece is a monumental mesh of quirky counterpoint and gritty progressions which sometimes jostle uneasily with weirdly distorted treatments of banal tunes like "What a friend we have in Jesus".

Miss Weber illuminated the complex textures intelligently, caught the kaleidoscopic shifts in mood, and made a credible stab at the ferocious technical requirements.

Unusually, she offered the second (1838) version of the *Transcendental Studies*, which she swept through with great verve, though the slow studies could have been more subtly coloured. The whole recital was delivered from memory, and Miss Weber (as befitts the author of two novels) provided some exceptionally lively programme-notes. However, her pen is not mightier than her chords.

Richard Morrison

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## FRIDAY PAGE

## 'The problem facing us now is a philosophical divide'

The story of "Samantha" appears on page nine of Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's report. Samantha's mother died when she was very young and her father abused her sexually from about the age of four. There does not seem to be a perversion available that was not forced on the girl, who was made to say that she "enjoyed it". As the years went by, it became a formula. "If I wanted a favour, to go out with a friend, or buy a new pair of shoes, I had to let him do it first." Eventually Samantha went into care and the father to prison. Step by step, the wrecked girl is coming to terms with her life.

Right, I thought after reading that, who can turn their back on the nightmare of sexual abuse or pretend it does not exist? But what, precisely, does Samantha have to do with the Cleveland affair, which is after all the subject of the Butler-Sloss report? She is not one of the 121 children taken away from their parents and put into care during the events of May and June 1987. If her story is told as a means to drive home to the reader the awful aspects of a child abuse case, why do we not have the same worm's-eye story of two parents who have had their children brutally taken away from them? Can we begin to imagine the despair of a mother who holds a child inside her womb for nine months only to find it taken from her

simply because she took the baby to hospital over a spot of constipation and bumped into Dr Marietta Higgs? The Butler-Sloss report is, frankly, a most bewildering affair. One year after the events in Cleveland it still gives no figures on how many criminal charges were laid or convictions obtained. Nor is there any clear analysis of the evidence that caused these children to be taken from their homes. We understand that the reflex anal dilatation test (RAD) was a sufficient cause for 18 children to be placed under care orders and a necessary cause to investigate the rest, but Butler-Sloss now says RAD "is not in itself evidence of anal abuse". Surely it is scandalous if, solely on the basis of this discredited diagnostic technique, 18 children were taken from their homes?

What intrigues me is the tone of voice Butler-Sloss sets in the report. There are times, I can't help feeling, that being even-handed between right and wrong is less than fair. Those people who worried about what was happening, like the police surgeons and Labour MP Stuart Bell are criticized by Butler-Sloss for their outbursts of temper or inflammatory comments. But these outbursts of temper came when nearly 50 children had already been taken into care and the merry-go-round was accelerating. It is hard to see what else they could have done. Reasoned approaches to Higgs

seem unlikely to have been productive, particularly as even today she stands by her procedures. In the end, I suppose, the chastened, cap-doffing British parents would eventually have turned into a lynch mob and taken the matter into their own hands.

The report has an almost cinematic inevitability as events unfold. Cleveland County Council Social Services Department creates the new post of Child Abuse Consultant. Mrs Sue Richardson takes the job. New committees and working parties are set up to examine the problems. Higgs meets Richardson in one such group. Predictions of increased detection of sexual abuse are made and sure enough this is soon happening. Underneath the burgeoning problem is the dispute over the RAD test, but Richardson "did not recognize the importance of the test" according to Butler-Sloss. It is virtually on this slender reed alone that Butler-Sloss dismisses a conspiracy between Richardson and Higgs. But as the story unfolds the conclusion seems curiously



BARBARA AMIEL

at odds with what has been revealed by the narrative. Police and parents are blocked at every turn as they try to see the children; dissenting physicians are no longer asked to give second opinions; the controversy over the RAD test is buried. And when second opinions are insisted on Dr Jane Wynne, the author of RAD testing, is consulted. The circle is complete.

Discussions of this report are perilous, I think, in part because one does not want to be seen as sending a message that child abuse does not exist or that where it does it should not be a matter of the strongest censure. But there are difficulties here. In spite of its own statement that there is no way to determine the number of child sexual abuse cases, the report makes the implicit assumption that abuse is a major and increasing problem. It is this assumption that justifies the sort of measures that their advocates might otherwise not tolerate. One would expect, for example, that the only

circumstances under which a child should be taken from its parents when there is no complaint on the part of the child or a third party, should be when the evidence is strong enough to convince the court.

My own view is that the problem this report highlights is not child sexual abuse itself. Dreadful as that may be, it is a problem which society can deal with simply by strengthening current procedures and following up any suspicions with tough interview and monitoring procedures. The real problem facing us now is a philosophical divide. We are giving arbitrary powers over our children to social workers and doctors who may well have a philosophical stake in the discovery of child abuse.

and some police surgeons in alliance with more traditional authorities in the form of the parents and the police." Then, citing an analysis of the Cleveland affair by a communist writer, Wynne makes her stand: "It is as much these differences in philosophy that prevent us moving closer to Dr Roberts's view than merely the interpretation of the scientific material which is already available."

This is the language of those who see child abuse not simply as a monstrous criminal act but as an element in class warfare — which may mean the dispossessed against the bourgeoisie or the professionals against the family. This automatically opens up definitions of what constitutes child abuse and explains the more cavalier approach to evidence and diagnosis.

Of course a great number of people worried about child abuse are not using the issue for some other political agenda. But good intentions can easily be hijacked. We are creating powerful procedures to challenge the autonomy of the family. If we are to begin training programmes to fight child abuse we had better make sure that these programmes are not in the hands of people who are committed to discovering abuse where it does not exist. And that our £7 million will not go to those who are intent on simply marshalling our resources to further their "differences in philosophy".

JOHN MANNING

## Service with a familiar smile

Why, later this month, some well-known faces will willingly abandon all attempts at anonymous shopping

If shop assistants and waiters dream of being stars, then the reverse, it seems, is also true: stars dream of being shop assistants and waiters. Nearly 200 of them have volunteered for such real-life roles in a charity event at Covent Garden at the end of this month on Saturday, July 30.

The idea is simple: the celebrities spend their money and each participating store, bar or restaurant donates 5 per

cent of the day's takings. The money will go to two Aids charities, the Terrence Higgins Trust and Frontliners, a self-help group for victims.

Shop Assistance is the brainchild of Kelly Hunter, a 24-year-old former National Theatre actress who lost a close friend to the disease. "I'd helped with benefits for the Trust which were marvellous but I began to feel that we were preaching to the converted, that we had to reach people who can't afford £50 tickets." She knew Covent Garden

from her appearances at the Donmar Warehouse and thought its unique community atmosphere ideal for an appeal. But her initial approaches to shops for donations met with a resounding silence. It was only when she hit on the idea of asking the famous to take part that the idea really took off. Hunter and co-organizers Michael Reed, an American actor, and Sonia Friedman, a stage manager, began with personal contacts. "It's amazing how many people you know in the theatre, when you try," Friedman says. "It really was a case of ringing up and saying: 'Do you remember me? I'm the girl with the curly hair you worked with three years ago at so and so'."

For nearly six months they have cajoled and charmed their way past agents and managers who often said no, to the VIPs themselves who usually said yes. They've been aided by youth and beauty and the kind of resilience you get when, as in Hunter's case, you've played the title role in the NT's notorious flop Jean Seberg. They wear a badge. "Those Shop Assistance people are the pushiest I've ever met" — taken from an overheard remark.

Only one man, Hunter says,



Covent Garden assistants: (from left) Michael Reed, Sonia Friedman and Kelly Hunter, the organizers of the day of shopping with stars

did not want anything to do with an Aids charity.

The spread of personalities from politics, sport, business and the arts as well as showbusiness has fulfilled Hunter's wish that it would not be "just the usual crowd of gay supporters". She adds: "I think people have agreed to do it because it's something different, they're not being asked to perform." For some, she notes, there is a certain nostalgia in doing for charity jobs they once did of necessity.

They have tried to match the celebrity to the shop: bespectacled Su Pollard is in an optician's; Gordon Kaye, the café owner of *Allo! Allo!*, in a wine bar; Cynthia Payne in a café (which takes luncheon vouchers); Delia Smith with the pots and pans in one kitchen shop; Uri Geller with the cutlery in another. Claire Rayner, at her request, is in a confectioners and *The Times*' financial editor, David Brewerton, will be in jewellers Thomas Kettle, at their

request. During our interview in their offices off Hatton Garden, donated by an anonymous benefactor, the phone rang to say Frank Bruno had agreed to help. There was much excitement over where to put him. "The Body Shop, of course," someone says.

When they embarked on the project the target was £100,000. Now, with an overwhelming number of traders involved — "only eight baddies have held out" — they hope it may be more. No one

has ever calculated how much money the area takes, but an average summer Saturday will draw a million visitors and Shop Assistance hopes to attract another half-million. The scheme now involves London Transport, which has agreed to close Covent Garden underground station and open the Aldwych, which is normally closed at weekends. The event is also aimed at educating the 17 to 35-year-old age group. Aids information leaflets will be popped

into purchase bags and the charities plan to have their own stalls there.

Hunter knows Aids victims who have died without ever being able to admit what was wrong. Shop Assistance has bossed her life for half a year now. At one point when the trio were flagging, two people they knew died of the disease on the same day. "It was like a bolt of lightning hitting us," Hunter says. "We knew then there was no going back."

Liz Gill

# habitat

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## Turn of wagon wheels

From Mrs M.A. Alafouzo, Victoria Drive, Wimbledon, London SW19

Though I have often taken exception to Barbara Amiel's views, I must congratulate her on her stand ("Of bands, handwagons and fellow travellers", Friday Page, June 17). Despite the vagaries and

## TALKBACK

necessities of war alliances, it seems to me that Communists and Fascists (or Nazis) have very much in common and both stand at either extreme to our own democratic ideals and values. However, at least since

the Spanish Civil War, a rather widespread Marxist notion would have us believe that the world is neatly divided into Communists and Fascists, and that whoever is not on the Communist bandwagon must of necessity be a Fascist or fellow traveller, which, in this case, means pro-apartheid. Ms Amiel's article goes a long way towards dispelling the propagation of this myth.

From Rafael Waber, Lancaster Grove, London NW3

In respect of Barbara Amiel's article, I must say that although I too am annoyed by the affected "political awareness" of pop singers today, I equally abhor the apathetic attitude adopted by people of Ms Amiel's political convictions.

Her sort always plead that, "there is an understanding in South Africa that apartheid... cannot continue", and then sit back content, believing that they are relieved from taking action of any kind. It is in fact Ms Amiel's remarks that are merely "cheap sophistry".

From Malcolm Wicks, Director, Family Policy Studies Centre, 231 Baker Street, London NW1

Barbara Amiel ("Getting the parents that society deserves", June 24) notes that "A study from the Family Policy Studies Centre recommended that divorce be forbidden to couples married for less than three years". She refers to this recommendation as verging on the "eccentric". I wish to make it clear that our centre did not make such a recommendation.

The Family Policy Studies Centre is an independent body. We have no political, religious or other association. We are not in the business of policy prescription, "eccentric" or otherwise.

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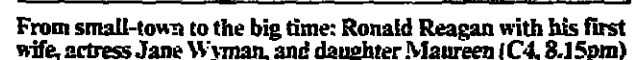
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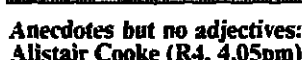
## TELEVISION CHOICE



are presented once again with the small-town boy from middle America who learned traditional values, of individuality and independence at his mother's knee and uses his charm, affability and mellifluous voice to become a radio commentator and a movie actor. He was then called "Regan" and often wore spectacles. As with Hitler, Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher, the glasses disappeared with high office, at least in public. Reagan's surprising entry into politics, when he was well into his fifties, is explained by the desire of the Californian hard right to find a new champion after the Barry Goldwater fiasco. After a few sleepless nights deciding whether he would be up to it, he found state governor an agreeable part to play and, cynics might say, he has been giving the same performance ever since.

**Peter Waymark**

## RADIO CHOICE



next door to Beethoven. But it's when he gets around to Mencken this afternoon that Cooke really warms up, and the anecdotes flow like liquid gold. It is a matter of record that Mencken's word picture of the American president Calvin Coolidge was a man who looked as if he had been weaned on a pickle, but it is probably apocryphal that, when a news editor told Mencken that Coolidge was dead, Mencken's reaction was to ask "How do they know?" For me, the high point of *My Heroes* comes when Cooke rattles off example after example of Mencken's vitriolic wit which appeared as "Words of Wisdom" in the magazine *American Mencken*. "Puritanism," he writes, "is just a flavour. 'Puritanism' is the haunting fear that somewhere, someone is happy," and "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want — and deserve to get it good and hard!"

**Rac**

**4.00 News**  
**4.05 My Heroes:** Cliff Morgan talks to broadcaster Alistair Cooke about the people who have influenced him (s)  
Choice  
**4.30 Kaleidoscope (r)**  
**5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping S.55 Weather**  
**6.00 The Stock News; Financial Report**  
**6.30 Freshhealing:** Designer Bruce Oldfield returns to his West Yorkshire home to reminisce on his school days there; plus a preview of a rainbow ham's rally, sedan chase races in Lincoln and barrel races in Lincoln; and a report on rivalry in the wine business from port city cult to international dressage competitions  
**7.00 News**  
**7.05 The Archers**  
**7.20 Pick of the Week:** Margaret Howard with her selection of the best weekend television broadcasting highlights (s)  
**8.05 The Week in Synod:** Rosemary Harill reports on John Hattersley's departure by the Church of England's government body  
**8.20 Any Questions?** Jonathan Dimbleby with Norman Tebbit MP, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Joe Ashton MP and Lambeth Labour councillor David Lunn  
**9.05 Live in London:** Professor Stevenson and Thomas Coningsby QC comment on the Butler-Sloss report on the case in Cleveland  
**9.30 Letter from America:** by Alistair Cooke  
**9.45 Kaleidoscope:** John Russell Taylor investigates the increasing popularity of photography with the public and the art market evinced by the success of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, and the Photographers' Gallery in London  
**10.15 At the Bedtime:** And So Did I by Malachi Whizpop (3 of 6) (s) **10.20 Weather**  
**10.30 The World Tonight**  
**10.40 Newsnight in Parliament**  
**11.15 The Financial World Tonight**  
**11.20 Week Ending:** A satirical view of the week's news with Bill Warris, David Tate and Shirley Grace (s)  
**12.20 News 12.20 Weather 12.35 Shipping**  
**VHF as above except 1.35-1.55 PM (containing Corner 5.50-5.55 PM (cont))**

## 3

**2.00** **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra:** Mariss Jansons conducts Verdi (Overture to *The Sicilian Vespers*); Glazunov (Violin Concerto in D minor for Saint-Saëns) (Introduction and Rondo capriccioso); and Berlioz (Symphonique (Symphonie antique)). With Igor Olstakh (violin). Includes 2.45 Interval reading

**3.50** **London Women's Voices:** Richard Marlow conducts members of the Trinity College Choir, Cambridge in *Verdi's Requiem*. Ave verum chorus; and Tantum ergo; Mendelssohn (Late quartet) Dominante/Brahms (Regina coeli, Op 37 No 3); Verdi (Laudi alla vergine Maria); Schubert (Gotterhymne); Liszt (Auror. D 757; Got ist mein Hirt, D 708); Holst (Ave Maria); and Poulenc (Litanies à la Vierge mariale from *St John's Mass*) (organ) and Charles Matthews (piano)

**5.00** **Mainly for Pleasure:** With Richard Marlow (piano)

**6.30** **Herbie Hancock (new series):** Ronald Atkins presents the first of five programmes profiling the American jazz musician and composer who at the age of 11 played a Mozart piano concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

**7.00** **News**

**7.05** **The Seeds of Hatred:** Fifth in a series of documentaries about the Boer War narrated by Gerard Green (r)

**7.25** **The Wallace Collection:** John Wallace conducts Jenacek (Capriccio for piano [left hand] and wind) and Hindemith (Concert National, Op 48, for piano, brass and two harps). With Radoslav Krapi (piano)

**8.15** **The Compromise:** by Istvan Eorsi, translated from the Hungarian by Richard Atkins and Anthony Vvris. With Hugh Dickson, Bernard Hepton, John Hurt, Ronald Pickup and Julia Stevenson (r)

**9.50** **London Handel Orchestra:** under Denys Barlow and Roy Goodman perform *St John's Passion* in D: Violin Concerto in D minor: Partita in C minor for above, strings and continuo

**10.40** **Migratory Birds:** by Michael R. Read by David Warner (r)

## Radio 4

er	4.00
6.25	4.05
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News	
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**6.00** TV-m begins with The Morning Programme, introduced by Richard Keys: **7.00** Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. After Nine includes Russell Gurnea's astrology slot.

**9.25** Thames news.

**9.30** **Peaseowd**. World association game hosted by Gordon Burns. The guests are Anne Gregg and Leslie Grouther: **10.00** Santa Barbara. **10.25** News headlines.

**10.30** The Time... The Place... Janice Long chairs a discussion on child abuse after the Cleveland report — where do we go from here? **11.10** Raitings. Learning Games (r).

**11.25** Thames news headlines.

**1.30** **Jobwatch**. How four of the thousands of Port Talbot steel workers made redundant some nine years ago survived (r).

**12.00** **Gas Street**. Music and chat show presented by Suzi Quatro. **12.30** The Sullivan's. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.

**1.00** News at One with Jan Snow.

**1.20** Thames news.

**1.30** **Film: Genevieve** (1953) starring John Gargson, Dinah Sheridan, Kenneth More and John Hay Kendall. *Vintage* comedy about the rivalry between two veteran car owners taking part on the London to Brighton "old car" rally. Directed by Henry Cornelius.

**3.00** **Take the High Road**. At the McNeils' things seem to be out of control. **3.25** Thames news headlines. **3.50** Sons and Daughters.

**4.00** **Button Moon** (r). **4.10** Rub A Dub Dub (r). **4.30** Scooby Doo (r).

**5.45** **Seaside Special**. *Seaside Special* reporter Sally Foster takes the chance to be an air hostess for the day on a flight to New York. Plus, a trip around the Explanatory, a science museum in Bristol.

**5.15** **Doctor in the House**. *Vintage* comedy series based on the *Doctor* books of Richard Gordon (r).

**5.45** News with Fiona Armstrong.

**6.00** The 5 O'Clock Show presented by Michael Aspel.

**7.00** **Jimmy's**. The second visit of the week to St James's University Hospital, Leeds, Britain's largest general hospital.

**7.30** **Through the Keyhole** introduced by David Frost. Willie Rushton, Emma Freud and Chris Tarrant attempt to discover the identities of the owners of two homes described by Loyd Grossman. (Oracle)

**8.00** **International Athletics**. The Peugeot Games live from Crystal Palace (continues on Channel 4).

**9.00** **C.A.T.S. Eyes**. Maggie takes a holiday complete with a runaway bus, collapsing scaffolding and a sniper in a boobyard. Starring Jill Gascoigne. (r).

**10.00** News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall. **10.30** LWT News and weather.

**10.35** **Aids: Update '86**. The latest developments in the fight to find a cure for the deadly disease. (Oracle)

**10.45** **Humber**. The first of a two-part murder mystery that begins when a man is murdered in a hotel following an argument.

**11.35** **1st Exposure**. Among the acts making their television debut are stand-up comedienne Julie Ballo, the Come String Quartet and the band Pleasure. Introduced by Arthur Smith.

**12.05am** **Kojak**. The hit-and-run killing of a police narcotics chemist opens up a previously closed case (r).

**1.00** **Night Network** includes an interview with the all-black rock and roll band *Liquid Blue* and live music from Big Bam Boo.

**4.00** **Baseball '88**. Minnesota v Oakland.

**5.00** **TV Morning News**. Ends at 5.40.

**7.30 Woman in View.** Current affairs series for women (1).

**7.35** **Marlene in Film.** Helen and Chris explore the bugs and streams of *Wonderbra (7)*.

**7.30** **Business Daily.**

**7.40** **Sesame Street.** Pre-school learning series. Today's guest is the actress Jane Curtin.

**7.40** **The Parliament Programme** presented by Alastair Stewart.

**7.30** **Channel 4 Racing from York.** Des Thompson provides coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races.

**7.30** **Countdown.** Today's challenger is Steve Williams, a computer programmer.

**7.40** **Mister Ed (W).** Winter comedy series starring Alan Young as a man with a talking horse.

**7.30** **The Chart Show.**

**7.30** **Four de France 1988.** Highlights of the sixth stage, the first individual time trial on a 52km course between Leter and Wasquehal.

**7.40** **Channel 4 News with Peter Sissons** and Nicholas Owen.

**7.55** **Book Choice.** The art critic and author Richard Dormant reviews Ariana Stassinopoulos Huffington's biography of Picasso, *(Oracle)*.

**8.00** **What the Papers Say,** with Francis Whelan.

**8.15** **Reagan on Reagan.** (see *Choice*)

**9.00** **International Athletics.** The Peugeot Games from Crystal Palace, continued from ITV.

**9.00** **Chasers.** Reality series set in a Boston bar. *(Oracle)*

**10.30** **The Last Resort** With Jonathan Ross. Tonight's guests include actor Rod Lowe, film director Mike Lee and soul singer Wil Downing.

**11.15** **Wired.** Featured tonight are Talking Heads, Jean Michel Jarre, Lyle Lovett and, being interviewed and singing, Nina Simone.

**12.15** **Sam Film: Bad Timing** (1980) starring Art Garfunkel and Theresa Russell. Drama about the love affair in Vienna between a psychoanalyst and an American expatriate. Directed by Nicolas Roeg. Ends at 2.30.

**BBC1**

**6.00** *Ceejay AM.*  
**6.40** *Leon Lezon in Pony Pony*  
**(b/w).** **6.55** *Weather*  
**7.00** *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at **7.00**, **7.30**, **8.00** and **8.30**; weather at **7.25**, **7.55** and **8.25**; regional news and travel reports at **7.27**, **7.57** and **8.27**. **8.35** Regional news and weather  
**9.00** News and weather followed by *Dad's Army* and Jamie make a pledge (*r*). *Ceejay* **9.50** *Mind How You Go*. The last in Jimmy Savile's series on accident prevention (*r*).  
**10.00** News and weather followed by *Life in the Eye*. The Beatles of Nashville, Tennessee (*r*).  
**10.15** *Cartoon* **10.25** *Children's BBC*. Simon Parkin with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play* presented by Ian Lauchlan and *Choice Aschcroft* (*r*), and *Paddington* (*r*). **10.55** *Five to Eleven*. Philip Madoc with a reading.  
**11.00** News and weather followed by *Wild Flower*. Michael Jordan with the story of *Heathcote* (*r*). *Ceejay* **11.15** *Peter Smith's One is Fun!* Summertime snacks for those eating alone (*r*).  
**11.30** *Favourite*. Richard Baker about the things that give him the most pleasure (*r*). *Ceejay*  
**12.00** News and weather followed by *The Animals*. *Ceejay* includes a visit to a dog show at the *Regional Highland Showground* (*r*). *Ceejay* **12.40** *Cartoon*  
**12.55** Regional news and weather.  
**1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buark. Weather. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Harold takes Henry's side in a family argument.  
**1.50** *The High Chaparral*. Western adventures (*r*). **2.40** *Valerie*. Domestic comedy series starring Valerie Harper (*r*).  
**4.05** *Cartoon* **4.10** *Paw Paws*. Cartoon about a group of young bears.  
**4.35** *Film: Fern the Red Deer* (1976) starring Candida Prior. A young orphan girl goes to live with her aunt and uncle on a remote island Exmoor farm. Her presence is resented by her cousin but relations improve when they find an abandoned baby fawn. Directed by Ian Darnley-Smith.  
**6.35** *Neighbours* (*r*).  
**6.00** *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Wintell. Weather. **6.35** *London Plus*.  
**7.00** *Wogan*. On tonight's guest list are Lord Havers, Flora Fultleton, George Hamilton and Bros. *Plus music* from Johnny Hates Jazz.  
**7.40** *No Place Like Home*. Domestic comedy series (*r*). *Ceejay*  
**8.10** *The Flying Doctors*. Drama series about the staff of Australia's Royal Flying Doctor Service. This week Dr Chris Randall's competence is questioned. Starring Andrew McFarlane, Liz Burch, Lenore Smith and Lewis Fitz-Gerald. *Ceejay*  
**9.00** *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis and Moira Stuart. Regional news and weather.  
**9.20** *The Sea of Cortez*. Confidential 88. The first of two compilations of highlights from comedian Jasper Carrott's last series.  
**10.10** *Omnibus: From Bitter Earth - Artists of the Holocaust*. Yehuda Bacon, Dinah Goltsova and Walter Solzer, artists who survived Nazi concentration camps, tell the stories behind their work.  
**11.15** *Film: Logan's Run* (1976) starring Michael Young and Jenny Agutter. Science fiction drama set in 2274 in an enclosed city where survivors of wars and pollution live a *Syberbia* life - until they reach the age of 30. Directed by Michael Anderson.  
**1.10am** *Weather*.

- 9.55** Open University: Science – A School of Genes. Ends at 7.20
- 9.00** **Cee-az** 1.20 **Sertha** (r). A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (r). 4.40 **Cee-az**.
- 9.00** **News** followed by **International Golf**. **Dougie Donnelly** introduces third round action in the Bell's Scottish Open Championship from the King's Course at the Gleneagles Hotel. The commentators are **Bruce Critchley**, **Alex Hay** and **Clive Clark**. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50.
- 9.00** **Film**: **The Thin Red Line** (1944, b/w) starring **Tom Conway** and **Birya Hale**. The suave investigator heads for the Wild West when a millionaire rancher drops dead after being bitten by a snake. Old New York night-club. Directed by **William Clemens**.
- 9.05** **The Phil Sellers Show** (b/w). **The fly Sergeant Bilko** decides to run for post of mayor of **Roseville** when he learns that there is only one other candidate – the present mayor (r).
- 7.30** **Ebony**. The first of a new series of eight magazine programmes for Britain's black communities. Tonight's edition includes a report on how Britain's four black MPs have fared in their first year in Parliament.
- 8.00** **Weekend**. What to do and see in the London and eastern regions this week-end (see **Variations** for other regional programmes).
- 8.30** **Gardeners' World** from Southwark in south-east London.
- 9.00** **Alan Smith and Jones** (r). (Cee-az).
- 9.30** **The Yellow River**. Part three of the six-programme series about the Chinese river features the **Taer Temple**, a centre of pilgrimage for Tibetan Buddhists.
- 9.55** **Sing Company**. Among those appearing tonight are **Stonewall Jackson** and **Carroll Baker**.
- 10.25** **Newsnight** 11.10. **Weather**.
- 11.15** **The Weak in the Lords**.
- 11.55** **Newsnight**. **Golf** highlights of the third round of the Bell's Scottish Open Championship. Ends at 12.40am.

[illegible]

SEE  
RUSSIA  
WITHOUT  
GOING  
INTO  
THE RED.

Lunn Poly are offering **£60 off** per person on selected Intourist Russian tours from Manchester and Gatwick.

They'll fly you to the once capital Leningrad and the present capital Moscow, as well as the largest and most popular of the Black Sea resorts, Yalta.

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# Platform hit by blast four years ago

By David Young  
and Ronald Faux

The Piper Alpha platform pumped its first oil ashore in December 1976 and has since been one of the North Sea's best performing oil fields with output totalling an average of 167,200 barrels of oil and 23 million cubic feet of natural gas a day.

Oil runs through a 28-inch pipeline 128 miles to the Flotta Terminal on the Orkney Islands run by Occidental. Gas is piped 34 miles north through an 18-inch pipeline to join the Elf-operated pipeline which runs from the Frigg field to the natural gas handling terminal at St Fergus near Peterhead.

It also sends gas down a pipeline to power the generating plant aboard the Occidental Claymore production platform and it takes gas from the Texaco Tartan field 12 miles away.

The field is part of a consortium operation run by Occidental with its partners Texaco, Union Texas, and the Thomson Organization and in total it can meet 15 per cent of the energy needs of the UK each day, with a total of 340,000 barrels of oil each day flowing to Flotta.

The advanced down-hole system installed in North Sea wells will ensure that the 36 wells feeding into the Piper Alpha platform will have automatically sealed themselves off, so there should be no spillage into the North Sea.

The other fields in the consortium, Claymore, Tartan, Scapa, Highlander and Petronella, will still be able to send oil into the Flotta pipeline system, but they have been closed for safety reasons and could be out of production for a month.

The gas link between Tartan and Piper has also been switched off by Tavo for safety reasons. The Piper platform weighed a total of 34,000 tonnes and on average 200 workers spent two weeks on and two off the platform, working 12-hour shifts.

The main jacket, the steel legs supporting the accommodation and production modules, was built in two sections, one at the UJE yard at Le Havre and the other at the McDermott Scotland yard near Inverness. The modules were built in the UK by Foster Wheeler, John Brown, SLP Scotland and Redpath Engineering. The power generators would light a town.

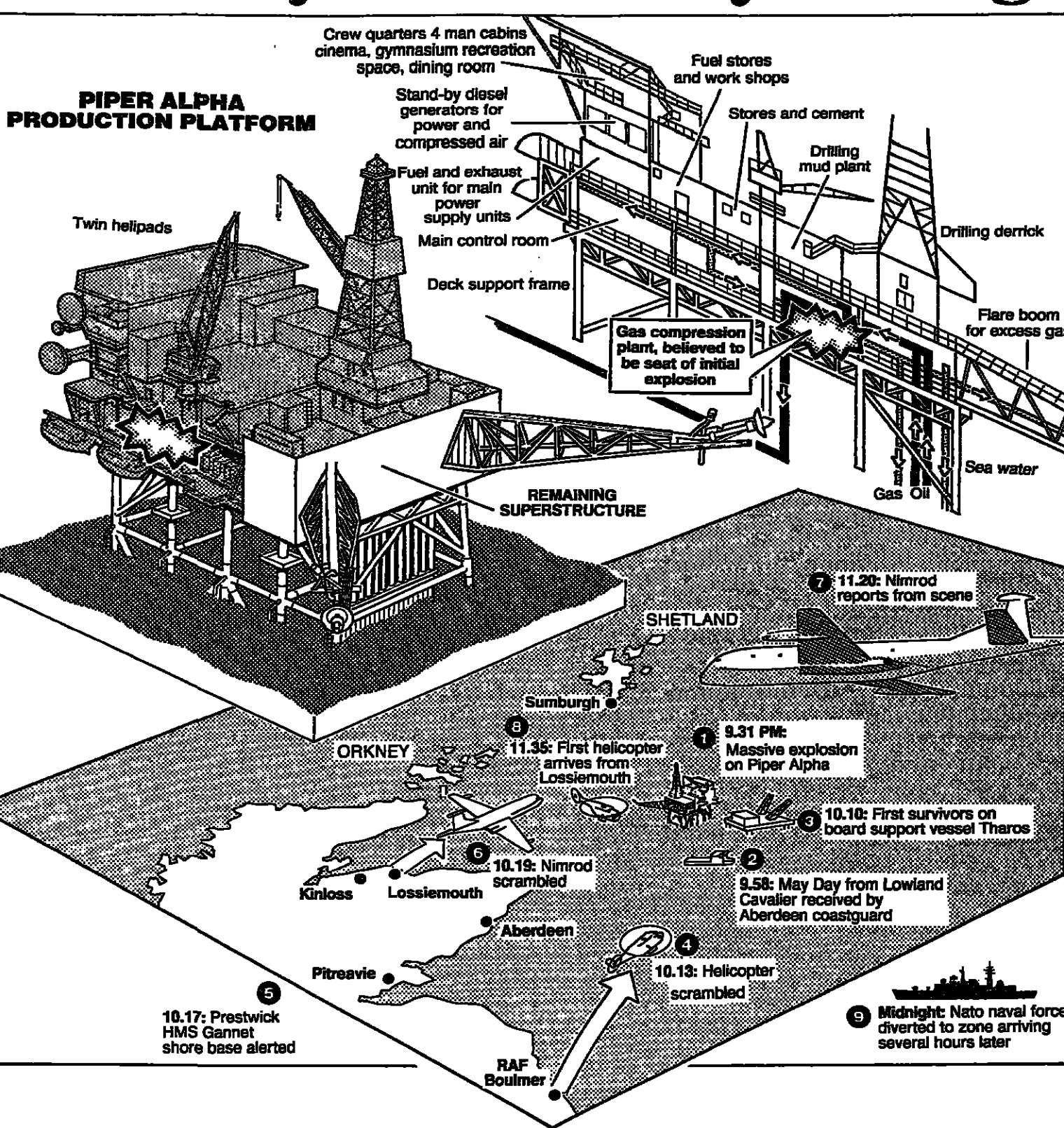
The platform was rocked by an explosion four years ago which led to 175 workers being moved off and 55 of them being treated in hospital. None was seriously hurt.

In 1982, three men died when they fell 70 feet from the platform's access gangway.

The Piper Platform's four massive legs are buried 150 feet into the sea bed. It rises almost 500 feet from the mud level to the main platform, with the drilling derrick rising 150 feet above that.

It had enclosed lifeboats, slung along the sides of the platform and designed to withstand oil fires and each capable of carrying 50 men.

Current work on the platform resulted in an extra 32 being on board on Wednesday evening.



## Theory of gas build-up Survivors jumped 70ft into darkness

Continued from page 1

ropes slung from the platform. Virtually all those who survived were working on deck at the time.

One who had just finished a 12-hour shift and was rescued after several hours in the water was Mr Dave Lambert, aged 38, of Thornaby, Cleveland.

He said he looked for an escape route through any of the four doors in the area he was in, but each had become surrounded by flames.

"I thought I was dead, I thought I had had it. All of a sudden the floor opened up, the deck just collapsed. We just had time to jump, the water must have been 60 to 70 feet below."

Mr Roy Carey, aged 45, an instrument technician of Irvine, Strathclyde, who was on the platform, said: "It was a case of fry and die or jump and

try. There was no time to ask - it was over the side or nothing I just dived - it may have been 60 feet."

None of the platform's six lifeboats, each capable of carrying 50 men and designed to withstand fires, was launched.

They were said to have been destroyed in the initial explosion and Mr Brading said it would be a primary task of the company investigation to find out why the vessels failed to save lives.

Police said there was "absolutely no evidence" to suggest the disaster had been caused by sabotage.

A blow-out on the platform, on which there was an explosion four years ago resulting in 175 men being evacuated and 55 being treated in hospital, has also been ruled out.

Survivors yesterday spoke of a squealing sound of escaping gas about 30 seconds before the first explosion on the 12-year-old rig.

Normally, there would have been only 200 men on Piper Alpha but an extra 32 workers were on board on Wednesday evening installing a new "riser" pipe. There was no confirmation that the workers were using oxy-acetylene equipment.

As soon as the first may day call was received just after 10 m, RAF Pitreavie took over the role of co-ordinating the major incident contingency plan which had been practised just a month before.

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Energy, praised the exemplary work of the emergency services after visiting the site of the disaster by helicopter.

### Commons sketch

## Enough sensitivity to span the globe

The twinkling of a buttercup at sunset... the gentle splash of water against the Bridge of Sighs by moonlight... the deepest murmurings of the inner soul of Miss Arianna Stassinopoulos-Huffington... No, there can be few things in Heaven or on Earth more sensitive than Members of Parliament. We know this because they yell it, time and time again, at the very top of their voices.

The day before yesterday they were sensitive about the Piper Alpha oil platform. But they are also very sensitive about the little things in life and they expect a similar volume of sensitivity in others. "I'm sensitive - are you sensitive?" was the gist of Mr Kinnock's message to the Prime Minister yesterday when the oil platform disaster was being discussed. "Yes, I'm happy to report that I'm sensitive too," was the gist of her reply.

The House then extended its sensitivity to every corner of the globe. Sir Richard Boddie wanted the Prime Minister to feel moved by a recent report that before long 80 per cent of decisions would be made in Brussels. The lyric poem the Prime Minister hunched in return was brief but poignant: "I've heard the reports and I do not agree with them."

Mr Keith Vaz (Lab, Leicester East) wished the Prime Minister to feel "deeply ashamed" that "here is the first government in history to put our justice out to competitive tendering". One of the problems with highly sensitive folk is that their sensitivity carries with it the urge to make others feel miserably guilty. If every call to be "deeply ashamed" that is heard in the House of Commons were to be heeded, the Chamber would be awash with tears of remorse. Oddly enough, it is rarely even a little damp.

The Prime Minister stated that "we are all equal before the law", before turning to hear a less guilt-mongering question from Mrs Gillian Shephard (Cons, South-West Norfolk). Faced with the prospect of a rare question to the Prime Minister, she chose to worry about "the dualling of the A11".

In front of her, Mr Julian

Brazier, whose visible loopiness has been brought to the attention of readers many times before, beamed and yelped with delight, as if the dualling of the A11 might well be the answer to all the world's wrongs. He turned around to congratulate Mrs Shephard on the brilliance of her speech, his face a picture of untrammelled joy. Perhaps he mistakenly believed that Mrs Shephard was proposing duelling the A11, and Mr Brazier, whose lean, over-long body and crazed expression is by no means unmemorable of Don Quixote, was now volunteering himself as the most promising duellist. We shall probably never know.

"I know my Honourable Friend's view on the A11," replied The Prime Minister. It seemed likely that if she knew that, she knew everything. The A11, she added, would soon be 80 per cent dual carriageway. Ah! The Labour benches seemed to claim this self-proclaimed Mrs Memory, but just how many different cat's eyes will it have, to the nearest ten?

But whatever happened to the underlying theme of sensitivity, running like a fine golden thread between the folds of this diligent if bitty commentary? Why, it was lying ready to be spun back to life by the dapper yet highly sensitive form of Mr Paul Boateng (Lab, Brent South). "We know she has no compassion," he asked of the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister reply with a full rundown of the various different percentages of shame and compassion that were expected to be contained in her body by the end of the 1990s? She remained.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours rose to complain that the Prime Minister had been "insensitive and indifferent" to a distressed delegation that had recently met her. She replied that she was "certainly not unsympathetic". By now accusations and counter-accusations of insensitivity were being barked around, and the noise was so terribly, terribly dreadful that it was time to leave the delicate flowers to bask it out between themselves.

Craig Brown

## Air victims mourned

Continued from page 1

nounce America, the West and Iraq. Judging by the number of buses and the banners from the Ministry of Defence and Iran Air, many were part of an orchestrated demonstration.

Preparations for the funeral nearly ended in disaster on Wednesday night when the bodies being flown to Tehran - including seven children, one Yugoslav and one Indian - slid against the back of the transport plane's hold, forcing the pilot to abort the take-off.

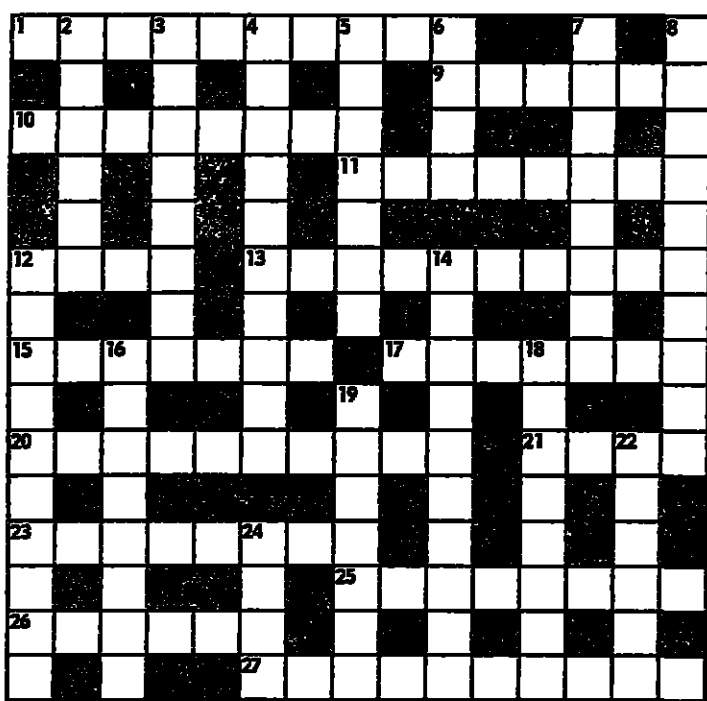
President Ali Khamenei

hinted that Iran would avenge their deaths through the media and the UN, due to sit in emergency debate on Tuesday, rather than by the gun.

The tenor of his address was similar to statements released by other Iranian leaders, including Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of Parliament.

The same sentiments were apparent among individuals even if the crowd called for violent actions. Two Iran Air co-pilots, with tears in their eyes, lamented the loss of the crewmen they knew

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,716



#### ACROSS

- 1 School equipment provided by unenlightened council (10).
- 9 State capital for Victoria, say (6).
- 11 Vehicle I head after in traffic (8).
- 12 Produce tip with hesitation, having inside info (8).
- 13 Concentrated on point that's foolhardy (10).
- 15 Commend a parish priest to archbishop (7).
- 17 Person on the look-out for gamesmanship expert (7).
- 20 The record's broken in this town (10).
- 21 State said to express regret (4).
- 23 Naval commander delays RN review (8).
- 25 Diabolical character of Shaw or James, possibly (8).
- 26 He comes to court (6).
- 27 Esteem management keeps in proportion (10).

#### DOWN

- 2 The work of Monet, say, 'e's left here (6).

#### 3 Bent part of metallic rim in a lathe (8).

- 4 Fish with line - that's novel! (5,5).
- 5 Magazine found in London club (7).
- 6 Extremes from doctor, urging medical treatment (4).
- 7 Last person satanically possessed? (8).
- 8 Minor crags, perhaps, as well as major peaks (10).
- 12 To read, ladies' letters are shocking (10).
- 14 Excellent face-saving device for foreman (10).
- 16 Ship's left aforementioned harbour (4,4).
- 18 Order of very quiet traits? (8).
- 19 Celebrity upsets moderates, apart from a couple of eggheads (7).
- 22 Handsome youth is a game outside-left (6).
- 24 Girl who's overawed right, left and centre (4).

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

- CLAVIGEROUS**  
a. Ravenously hungry  
b. Carrying keys  
c. Music from street strings
- MAINTISSA**  
a. A prophetic  
b. A Spanish cloak  
c. A minor addition
- FUCOID**  
a. A seaweed  
b. Smothered with smoke  
c. Half-cooked
- TRIPHITHONG**  
a. A syllable of three vowels  
b. A cat-o-nine-tails  
c. A primitive brassiere

Answers on page 18, column 1

### Solution to Puzzle No 17,715

S Y L P H G R E A S E G U O  
H O U R N A U O  
I N C U M B E N T C H A I R  
P U A M H K R M  
W I M E N L O U I S I A N A  
C S A F R S M I S S I O N K E S  
E L Y S I A N E X C I T E D  
K I N G D O M S E A L E G S  
K O A N Y  
P R E T E N D E R K N A V E  
A E R I A C L M  
N A D I R C O C K A H O O P  
J O O U E S M E  
C A M E R A M A N E I G E R

### WEATHER

It will be a day of sunshine and showers, with the brightest weather likely to be in the south and east. Further north, over north-west England, Northern Ireland and western Scotland, skies will be mainly cloudy and showers will be more frequent and still with the risk of thunder. It will be windy in the west and south-west, particularly over hills and coasts. Outlook: remaining unsettled.

#### ABROAD

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	28	81	Luxor	43	109
Australia	35	95	Madrid	23	73
Bahamas	31	88	Melbourne	27	81
Bahia	28	82	Mexico	27	81
Bangkok	31	88	Moscow	23	73
Bombay	31	88	Nairobi	23	73
Buenos Aires	31	88	Paris	17	63
Calcutta	31	88	Peking	21	70
Cairo	31	88	Rangoon	23	73
Canton	31	88	San Francisco	23	73
Cebu	31	88	Singapore	23	73
Colon	31	88	Sydney	23	73
Hankow	31	88	Taipei	23	73
Hong Kong	31	88	Tokyo	23	73
Kobe	31	88	Yokohama	23	73
London	31	88			
Lyons	31	88			
Manila	31	88			
Medan	31	88			
Shanghai	31	88			
Singapore	31	88			
Sourabaya	31	88			
Tientsin	31	88			
Yokohama	31	88			

#### AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
London	10.1	1.2	18	6
Edinburgh	10.1	1.2	18	6
Belfast	10.1	1.2	18	6
Cardiff	10.1	1.2	18	6
Exeter	10.1	1.2	18	6
Gloucester	10.1	1.2	18	6
Leeds	10.1	1.2	18	6
Liverpool	10.1	1.2	18	6
Manchester	10.1	1.2	18	6
Newcastle	10.1	1.2	18	6
Nottingham	10.1	1.2	18	6
Sheffield	10.1	1.2	18	6
Sunderland	10.1	1.2	18	6
Swansea	10.1	1.2	18	6
Torquay	10.1	1.2	18	6
Wolverhampton	10.1	1.2	18	6
Wrexham	10.1	1.2	18	6

#### HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM	HT
London	9.32	5.4	6.4
Edinburgh	9.32	5.4	6.4
Belfast	9.32	5.4	6.4
Cardiff	9.32	5.4	6.4
Exeter	9.32	5.4	6.4
Gloucester	9.32	5.4	6.4
Leeds	9.32	5.4	6.4
Liverpool	9.32	5.4	6.4
Manchester	9.32	5.4	6.4
Newcastle	9.32	5.4	6.4
Nottingham	9.32	5.4	6.4
Sheffield	9.32	5.4	6.4
Sunderland	9.32	5.4	6.4
Swansea	9.32	5.4	6.4
Torquay	9.32	5.4	6.4
Wolverhampton	9.32	5.4	6.4
Wrexham	9.32	5.4	6.4

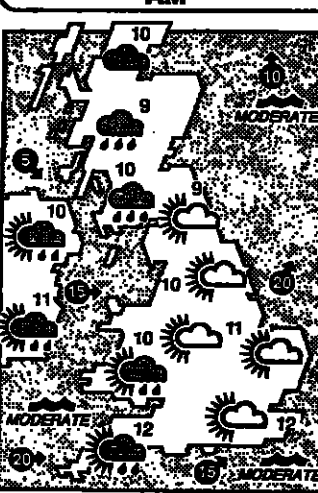
### THE POUND

	Bank	Rate
Australia	1.5	1.5
Belgium	1.5	1.5
Canada	1.5	1.5
Denmark	1.5	1.5
France	1.5	1.5
Germany	1.5	1.5
Italy	1.5	1.5
Japan	1.5	1.5
Netherlands	1.5	1.5
Spain	1.5	1.5
Sweden	1.5	1.5
Switzerland	1.5	1.5
USA	1.5	1.5
Yugoslavia	1.5	1.5

#### NOON TODAY

	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	10	10
Edinburgh	18	10	10
Belfast	18	10	10
Cardiff	18	10	10
Exeter	18	10	10
Gloucester	18	10	10
Leeds	18	10	10
Liverpool	18	10	10
Manchester	18	10	10
Newcastle	18	10	10
Nottingham	18	10	10
Sheffield	18	10	10
Sunderland	18	10	10
Swansea	18	10	10
Torquay	18	10	10
Wolverhampton	18	10	10
Wrexham	18	10	10

### AM



#### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.47 pm to 4.25 am  
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 4.35 am  
Belfast 6.07 pm to 4.45 am  
Cardiff 6.17 pm to 4.55 am  
Exeter 6.27 pm to 5.05 am  
Gloucester 6.37 pm to 5.15 am  
Leeds 6.47 pm to 5.25 am  
Liverpool 6.57 pm to 5.35 am  
Manchester 7.07 pm to 5.45 am  
Newcastle 7.17 pm to 5.55 am  
Nottingham 7.27 pm to 6.05 am  
Sheffield 7.37 pm to 6.15 am  
Sunderland 7.47 pm to 6.25 am  
Swansea 7.57 pm to 6.35 am  
Torquay 8.07 pm to 6.45 am  
Wolverhampton 8.17 pm to 6.55 am  
Wrexham 8.27 pm to 7.05 am

#### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: min 6m to 6pm, 17C (63F); max 6pm to 6pm, 20C (68F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2 in.

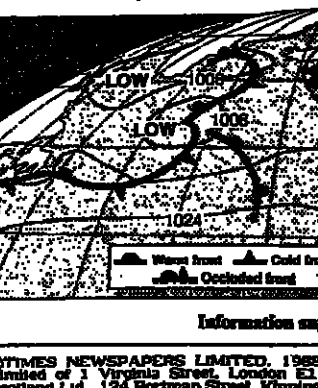
#### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud; f. fair; r. rain; s. sun.

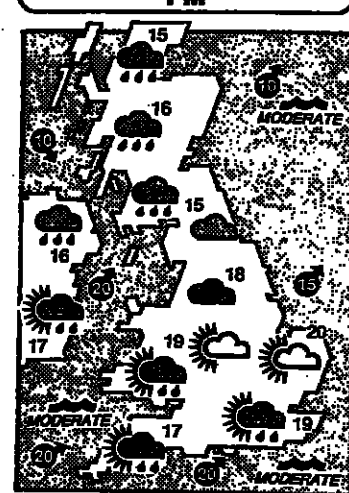
#### TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 9.00am, 11.15am, 4.35pm and 6.15pm.

#### NOON TODAY



### PM



#### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: min 6m to 6pm, 19C (66F); max 6pm to 6pm, 20C (68F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2 in.

#### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Leamington, 19C (66F). Lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, 12C (54F). Highest night temp: Scarborough, 12C (54F). Lowest night temp: Cape Wrath, 12C (54F).

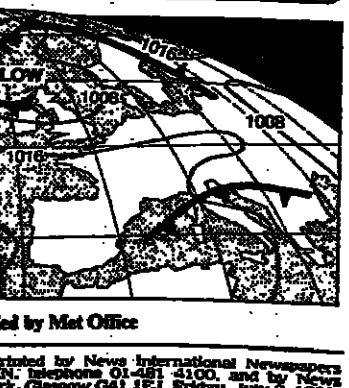
#### POLLEN COUNT

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10 am yesterday was 5 (low). Forecast for today: higher. For the next 24 hours call National Pollen and Hay Fever Bureau: 0885 500481.

#### NEW MOON JULY 13

Sun rises: 4.54 am  
Moon sets: 8.17 pm  
Sun sets: 12.34 am  
Moon rises: 4.28 pm

#### NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office







## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Shares halted by talks at Lowe and Babygro

Dealings in shares in both Robert H Lowe, the Cheshire clothing manufacturer, and Babygro Holdings, the Scottish childrenswear group which came to the market a year ago, were suspended yesterday pending the outcome of merger discussions. Firm news is expected in about a week and should take the form of an agreed bid for Babygro from Lowe, which is about twice its target's size with a market capitalization, at the 195p suspension price, of £12.65 million.

The two companies' shares have been travelling in opposite directions in recent months. Lowe is a stock market high-flier due to its position as the principal British supplier of the Adidas brand. Babygro has seen its market worth slip from £11.6 million at the time of the flotation to £6.85 million, as its shares have tumbled from the placing price of 110p to just 65p on suspension. Mr Derek Hill, Lowe's chief executive, said the attractions of a link included cost savings, as both are suppliers of childrenswear to large retail chains such as Marks and Spencer, Storehouse and Debenhams.

## Micro Focus in joint deal

Micro Focus, the computer software group which returned to profitability last year after two years of losses, announced yesterday it has signed a strategic marketing and software development agreement with Microsoft Corporation. The two groups will share product and marketing knowledge, and produce and sell advanced software. Shares of Micro Focus responded to the news with a leap of 21p to 158p.

## Bid for Stead is extended

Clayton Properties, the property developer, has extended its hostile £108.1 million bid for Stead & Simpson, the shoe shop chain and motor dealer, by three days to July 16. Meanwhile, the group has edged closer to its goal with further purchases of the all-important Stead voting shares in the market, along with acceptances of just 0.02 per cent, to give it a total of 38.16 per cent.

## Hampson in cash call

Hampson Industries, the West Midlands engineering group, is raising £4.94 million via a one-for-eight rights issue of convertible preference shares. The shares, which will be issued at 100p, are convertible into ordinary shares between 1991 and 2003 at an equivalent price of 76.9p per share. This compares with yesterday's market price of 73p.

The convertible carries a coupon of 6.5 per cent. Hampson also reported profits up from £2.83 million to £4.3 million in the year to end-March. A final dividend of 1.25p per share makes 1.65p for the year.

## EEC jobless falls by 1.6%

The number of jobless in the European Community fell by 400,000 in May, but the seasonally adjusted rate was unchanged at 10.3 per cent. Eurostat, the EEC's statistical office, said the number of jobless was 15.5 million in May, a 1.6 per cent drop on May 1987 and 2.5 per cent down on April. The underlying rate was unchanged from April after adjusting for seasonal factors.

## Belgian buy for Wilkes

James Wilkes, the engineering group which took on new management this year, is paying £5 million for Waterlomat, a Belgian beer maker. Wilkes has also moved out of waste management with the £1.9 million sale of Cumbria Land to Caird Group, and there is an additional consideration of up to £350,000. The Belgian buy complements its John Quarmby subsidiary.

## Waterglade Int issue

The shopping centre developer, Waterglade International, is looking for £12.5 million from shareholders via a convertible preference rights issue with which to boost its investment portfolio.

Terms of the issue include an offer of three preference shares, convertible between 1990 and 2003, for every five ordinary held at 100p. Pre-tax profits rose from a pro forma £3.15 million to £4.6 million in the year to end-March. Earnings per share rose from 12.73p to 13.38p and the board is paying a 2.5p final dividend, making 4p for the year.

## £80m facility for Goal

Goal Petroleum has arranged banking facilities of \$137 million (£80 million) to pay for its development of the Wytch Farm oil field in Dorset and North Sea oil activities. The funds will replace an undrawn facility of \$50 million. They are made up of \$65 million and £13 million of revolving credit, and a conditional acquisitions facility of \$50 million.

## Krupp may change status

Fried. Krupp, the West German steel and engineering group, is considering a public listing. Herr Wilhelm Schneider, the chief executive said, it is a limited company nearly 75 per cent owned by a Krupp family trust, with Iran owning the remainder. Last year pre-tax profits fell nearly 50 per cent to DM110 million (£35 million) as sales eased to DM14.1 billion.

## Monks &amp; Crane steady

Reorganization costs at Monks & Crane, the USM-quoted distributor of industrial products, once part of Thorn EMI, saw pre-tax profits barely changed at £2.0 million in the year to end-March, with earnings per share cut back to 7.4p, from 10.7p. The final dividend is held at 2p, making a total increased just 0.1p to 3.2p.

The board said current strong trading levels could be sustained and would be more profitable as the one-off costs would not recur. Withdrawal from retail sales had an adverse effect on the results.

## Virgin Group may retreat to privacy

Honour runs high at Virgin. Mr Richard Branson's tears over losing his mates' money are real enough. But are they justified and could they have been spared? Is he to blame for misreading the City when he succumbed in November 1986, or has Virgin's reputation been yet another sacrifice on the Square Mile's altar of short-termism?

Let one thing be clear. Mr Branson's decision to return his baby to its womb has no sinister undertones. The group has not run into serious trading problems, there are no nasty extraordinary items waiting to make their appearance on the next profit and loss account.

But there are fund managers these days who scramble for the exits at any company that fails to show more than 20 per cent earnings growth. And Mr Branson's investment plans around the world have held out the prospect of no growth at all in the current year.

Having bowed to City pressure and sold his record shops to W H Smith for £23 million last month, only to find the price slammed by some of the more critical institutions, he has given up hope of satisfying his bigger investors.

So many entrepreneurs that have built private empires have found difficulty in reconciling the City's needs to their own. Some, like Mr Harry Goodman at Inasun, withdraw, others, like Mr

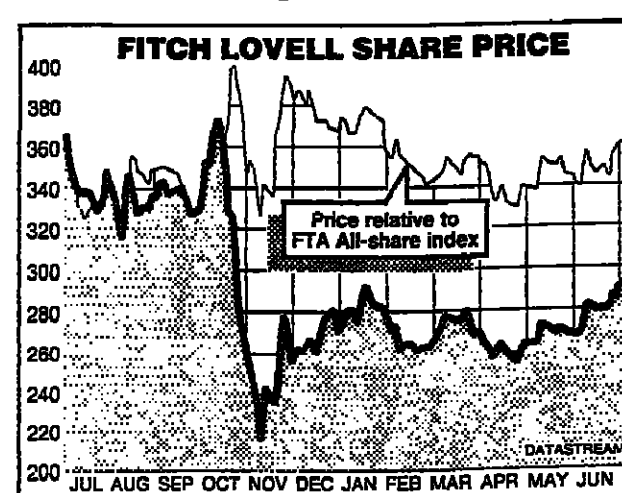
Alan Sugar, learn to co-exist. Virgin operates in some risky areas. Mr Branson has been pretty sure-footed up to now, but institutional investors who have to file reports every six months have not the same depth of confidence. It is the Phil Collins and Mike Oldfield of this world whose involvement is causing Mr Branson so much concern, who of course are far more prepared to go on backing his judgement.

How much Mr Branson will pay to buy his shares back is what Samuel Montagu must now decide. But if Mr Branson accepts, as he does, that even he could not have prepared for Black Monday, he may well be advised that they are not worth the 140p he got for them. Could he live with that kind of publicity? He is unlikely to be ungenerous. This would be the wrong time to sell. But how sad that the public must lose the chance to back one of Britain's few colourful and successful entrepreneurs.

## Hughes Food

Hughes Food is not a widely followed stock in the food manufacturing sector, but neither was Hilldown Holdings a few years ago. And look at it now.

The food manufacturing sector is perceived by many as mature and dull, but the opportunities to develop spec-



ialist niches are legion. Fresh and chilled food are the markets in which Hughes see the greatest growth potential so the group is concentrating on starting up new businesses in this field as well as making acquisitions.

Hughes is particularly well represented in the fish market and has recognised the trend among consumers to substitute fish or white meat for red meat. Food retailers reflect this by allocating an increasing amount of space to fish. The food supplies division accounted for about a third of last year's profits, but is the fastest growing part of the business.

Food services, which include school storage and freezing operations, make up about a quarter of profits with the

balance coming from a machinery business.

Organic profits growth last year was 60 per cent, with acquisitions contributing about £2 million at the pre-tax level. The growth was even stronger than this, stripping out acquisitions made in 1986-87.

The net debt to equity ratio was about 65 per cent at the year end. But strong cash flow from the majority of the group's businesses should preclude the need to ask shareholders for additional capital — there was a rights issue in July 1987.

Hughes has been widely tipped as a takeover target although 40 per cent of its equity is still in the hands of directors.

Despite the rumours, the

company has seen no signs of a share stake being accumulated. Nevertheless this must be a possibility longer term, particularly if acquisitions dilute the directors' holding further.

The shares sell on an above average rating. On forecasts for the current year of £7.5 million, the shares sell on a prospective p/e ratio of 12.9 times. A trifle expensive at first glance but, given the dynamism driving the company forward, a premium worth paying.

## Fitch Lovell

Fitch Lovell put in a creditable performance last year. Pre-tax profits were up 20 per cent to £27.6 million, comfortably ahead of analysts' expectations.

The group's food distribution businesses did especially well — pre-tax profits jumped 62 per cent to £11.8 million, deriving strength from the fast-growing food service to caterers.

The UK still lags the US and Europe in terms of the number of meals consumed outside the home — in the UK, fewer than a quarter of all meals are consumed away from home compared with more than half in Europe and the US.

However, rising affluence and the level of investment in catering outlets, from public houses and roadside res-

taurants to integrated leisure centres suggest a significant growth market.

Over two-thirds of Fitch's distribution activities meet the needs of the catering markets where it is second to Booker in ambient supplies and among the top three leading suppliers of frozen goods. But Fitch Lovell's total turnover in the two sectors of this highly fragmented market is only £160 million out of a total market of £1.2 billion, leaving plenty of room for the group both to grow with the market and to gain market share.

On the food manufacturing side, where profits grew 13 per cent to £18.1 million, the group tries to keep up with the fads and fashions of changing public taste. This means a concentration on chicken and fish products, and items for the delicatessen counter.

Investment has been heavy, both in new facilities such as the automated sandwich making factory at Milton Keynes, Bucks, and through acquisitions.

This year, pre-tax profits should rise by about 13 or 14 per cent to £31.5 million before property profits. But the rising tax charge will restrain the increase in earnings per share to 8 per cent. The prospective multiple of 11 looks a bit high giving the low rate of earnings growth, but the 6 per cent yield looks attractive.

## Call for EEC vetting on cross-border mergers

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Narrow, nationalistic competition policies should be set aside in favour of the European Commission becoming the key arbiter for international company mergers, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

This would clear the way for large economies of scale, which could be one of the most important benefits of the single European market, said Mr John Banham, the director general.

He proposed that once the Commission had decided to examine a merger, national authorities would have to stand aside even if the Commission decided against taking any action.

European regulation should be based on several general principles, said Mr Banham. It should promote the competitiveness of European business in world markets and assess mergers solely on the basis of effects on competition and prices within the Community as a whole.

The legal and economic criteria on which controls were based should be clearly defined and the system ought



John Banham: policy barrier

to operate speedily and efficiently. The system would take precedence over national regulations and make national controls for European mergers unnecessary.

Mr Banham said: "We need a competition policy which does not frustrate Britain's or Europe's need for the creation of more internationally competitive companies, with resources comparable to the giants of the US and Japan. We also need such a policy in Europe if business is to be able to reap one of the most important benefits of the completion of the single European market, the ability to achieve large economies of scale."

needed to be more successful in the long term, where companies come together in the same field. Competition policy — and not only in Britain — has been a barrier because it takes a too narrow and usually a nationalistic view of the market place."

Takeovers were just one form of inward investment, Mr Banham argued, but admitted that they could sometimes cause controversy.

"If counter-productive xenophobic arguments about hostile takeovers are to be avoided, it is essential that clear ground rules are set and observed. The only pan-European agency able to ensure fair play in a free market is the European Commission."

Clearly an elevation of its role in evaluating international mergers would involve some loss of sovereignty by the member states, he said. "Our problem in the UK has been the lack of a coherent competition policy. National laws, which enable the British Government to intervene in international mergers on grounds of 'national interest' now seem likely to be invoked only in defence matters."

## Germany to update bourses

(Reuters) — The Federation of West German Stock Exchanges is embarking on a modernization programme to help its members catch up with other financial centres.

The programme starts with a real-time share index this month, and the Federation is planning at least six big changes in the next two years.

"The planned measures will increase the attractiveness of German shares to foreigners," said Herr Peter Pletsch, investment analyst with Commerzbank.

The Deutscher Aktienindex (Dax) of 30 leading shares will be calculated every minute during the official two-hour session, to increase market transparency.

Other improvements include a contract on index futures for a planned futures market, continuous trading for some federal government bonds, introduction of stop-loss orders for investors and

amalgamation of the bourses' two computer systems.

"We want to strengthen the international position of West Germany's bourses," Herr Gernot Ernst, chairman of the Federation, said.

A recent announcement by the London International Financial Futures Exchange, that it had started trading in a futures contract on a 10-year federal government bond, caused consternation in West Germany.

## Christie coming to market at £33.7m

By Michael Tate

Christie Group, Britain's biggest business valuation agency which specializes in putting a price on other people's businesses, has itself been valued at £33.7 million as it seeks a stock market listing.

Cazenove, the broker, has placed 5.8 million shares in the group, representing 25 per cent of the enlarged equity, at 145p each.

Half of them come from the current owners — Mr Philip Gwyn, the chairman, and his management team — and the rest are new shares, which will raise some £3.6 million towards the group's future expansion.

Mr Gwyn bought Christie in 1980 from the Reliance Service group. Until now he had 78 per cent of the company. He will collect just under £3 million as his shareholding is whittled down to 60 per cent. He will still retain a stake worth £20 million.

Christie Group — no relation to the fine art dealer of similar name — has had phenomenal success over the last four years, raising turnover by a compound 45 per cent a year to £17.2 million, and pre-tax profits from £449,000 in 1984 to £3.54 million in the year to April 2.

During the past year Christie handled business deals and valuations worth more than £2 billion, negotiated finance deals totalling more than £100 million, conducted 19,000 stocktakes and produced appraisals of businesses worth more than £1.5 billion for banks and other institutions.

Earnings per share last year were 10.8p, indicating an historic price/earnings ratio of 13.4 at the placing price.

## Brussels defends approval of BSC 'beneficial' aid

By Colin Narbrough

The European Commission yesterday defended its past approval of massive subsidies to British Steel Corporation.

The response followed the West German steel industry's announcement on Wednesday that it had opened legal proceedings against Brussels for allowing "illegal" and "excessive" aid to BSC.

A Commission spokesman said that unlike some other subsidies awarded, the aid to BSC had been "beneficial", helping the former loss-making state enterprise back to health.

The West German Iron and Steel Association has issued a writ against the Commission for failing to act against some £930 million of aid which, in the Germans' view, has distorted competition, thereby constituting a breach of Community law.

News of the writ coincided with BSC posting a record £410 million net profit for 1987-88 — figures which lent strong support to the Government's plan to privatize late this year, or early next.

The Commission has noted

that the European Court had previously ruled that the £5.6 billion European currency units of aid — paid to BSC between 1983 and 1985 was "fair", relative to the subsidizing the steelmaker undertook.

Brussels argues that BSC carried out in full the restructuring plan to which the aid was linked, and has fulfilled its promise of returning to profitability.

The largely private West German steel mills are, however, claiming that £217 million was paid without EEC authorization, and a further £715 million had been awarded which was not demonstrably needed for restoring viability.

The prospect of a lengthy court case over BSC aid, and the possibility of substantial repayments, is certain to make the market revise its view of how much BSC is worth.

As one steel analyst commented, the writ would inject uncertainty into the multi-billion privatization. "It certainly is going to put the cat among the pigeons," she said.

## ILG spreads its wings with Connectair buy

By Our Industrial Editor

Mr Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group (ILG), whose Air Europe airline is rapidly expanding into scheduled air services around Europe, has bought out the commuter airline, Connectair.

The deal, for an undisclosed amount, brings ILG three leased aircraft and scheduled services to Antwerp, Düsseldorf and Rotterdam. Mr Goodman said: "This particu-

larly reinforces our position at Gatwick. Connectair is a profitable business and we shall be expanding it."

Mr Robert Wright, the Connectair chairman who built up the airline over the past four years, is resigning to pursue other interests.

Another founder director, Mr Brad Burgess, the sales and commercial director, has been appointed managing director.

## WATERGLADE

INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS plc

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1988

## Financial Highlights

- Turnover increased to over £17M.
- Profit before tax up 46% to £4.6M.
- Dividend per share of 4p.

"The group now has a broadly based property development portfolio together with an attractive portfolio of investment properties.

Confidence in the future is strong."

William H. Adams  
Chairman

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the company, Waterglade International Holdings plc, 10, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA. The contents of this statement have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Touche Ross & Co who are authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

## UK electronics firms 'lagging behind'

By Our City Staff

British electronics companies appear to be ill-placed to benefit from the single European market after 1992. Continental firms, however, including Philips, Ericsson and Olivetti, have positioned themselves better, and American and Japanese firms are jostling for a place.

This is one of the conclusions reached by McKinsey, the management consultant. Key aspects of its report are contained in a paper on the industry drawn up by the

National Economic Development Council.

McKinsey says Britain's leading indigenous electronics companies must undertake a comprehensive programme of action if they are to survive in their increasingly competitive and globalizing sector.

Although the national electronics firms have performed adequately over the past 10 years, they have lagged behind their foreign rivals in revenue and employment growth, and in aggregate lost substantial market share.

The NEDC paper points out

that British electronics production in 1986 was worth £18.2 billion and employed 330,000 people. While demand in the past decade has grown at more than 9 per cent each year, production averaged only about 8.4 per cent, producing a widening trade gap in electronic goods, now about £2 billion.

McKinsey notes that the sectors in which British-owned companies are strongest — defence, telecommunications and aerospace — will grow more slowly than the industry as a whole to 1991,

and are likely to become more competitive.

Important growth areas are expected to be software, instruments, computers, automation and components.

It foresees increasing globalization, forcing companies with "safe" niches, such as in applications software, to pursue more aggressive growth strategies, while the traditional competitive edge of British firms in higher-value-added electronics will be challenged by the Far East.

McKinsey urges British

electronics companies to:

- focus on core businesses and develop the "critical mass" needed to become viable competitors;
- develop structures and leadership style that support long-term growth, foster cross-business synergies, more commercial culture and strategic vision;
- communicate long-term strategies to the financial market to correct perceived short-termism; and
- work with suppliers to improve the components supply infrastructure.

## RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES  
Acl 148  
GUS 125  
Balcra New 125  
Bergersen A 226  
Bergersen B 226  
Boulder Gp 159

City of London 102  
Colfax Fowler (125p) 156  
Kilroy 67  
Conroy Pet 67  
Drayton Far Eastm 133  
Eng Oasas Prop 148  
Eurocorp 96  
First Iberian 55  
Gandalf Tech 27  
Herm Son (150p) 181  
Hiclar 96  
Jackson Group 112  
Kymene Cap 127  
Lincat Group (150p) 133  
Needler Group 105  
Racham Erw (195p) 243  
Saunders Elec 210  
SCORP 278  
Severfield-R 86  
React Shop 156  
TGI (130p) 144  
Tams (100p) 91  
Thomsons (125p) 136  
Young Gp (145p) 173

## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN 10.00%  
Adam & Company 10.00%  
BCCI 10.00%  
Consolidated Creds 10.00%  
Co-operative Bank 9.50%  
C. Hoare & Co 10.00%  
Hong Kong & Shanghai 10.00%  
Lloyds Bank 10.00%  
Nat Westminster 10.00%  
Royal Bank of Scotland 10.00%  
TSB 10.00%  
Citibank NA 10.00%

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Hummerprint N/P 21  
Kell Energy N/P 96  
Nat Aust Bk N/P 86  
Resamec N/P 31  
Select App N/P 40  
Solihull N/P 26  
Stretley N/P 46  
Westpac Bk N/P 88  
(Issue price in brackets)

## CASE add-on computer deal worth £2m

By Our City Staff

CASE, the British computer networking group, yesterday announced that its American subsidiary had signed a £2 million add-on agreement with Bell Canada.

Bell, which uses CASE data-concentrating exchange communications processors to access databases for service orders, is adding more DCX processors to expand the port capacity of its network.

CASE is currently fighting off a £57 million hostile bid by Gandalf Technologies. Gandalf has had a low level of acceptance for its initial offer and is expected to raise it

## COMPANY BRIEFS

BURTONWOOD BREWERY (fin)  
Pre-tax: £2.93 (£2.66)m  
EPS: 9.3 (8.8)p  
Div: 2.535 (2.3)p

Turnover £31.83 (£30.55)m.  
Volumes overall declined 2% during year but tied trade increased by 1%.

LOGITEK (fin)  
Pre-tax: £2.06 (£1.19)m  
EPS: 11.49 (7.7)p  
Div: 1.8 (1.3)p

Turnover £21.37 (£12.82)m.  
Company appointed by Sony as UK distributor for work stations. Confident of continued success.

RUSSELL (ALEX.) (fin)  
Pre-tax: £2.87 (£1.53)m  
EPS: 6.55 (4.3)p  
Div: 1.4 mkg 1.34p

Turnover £36.50 (£31.17)m.  
Shortfall recovered and profits increased compared with the previous year.

DAEJAN HLDGS. (fin)  
Pre-tax: £21.97m  
EPS: 88.13 (76.38)p  
Div: 11 mkg 19p

Investment portfolio valued at 31.3.88. Resultant surplus of £11.7m will be incorporated into the accounts at that date.

HOUSE PROP. LON. (fin)  
Pre-tax: £0.47m  
EPS: 33.88p  
Div: 6p

Pre-tax profit last time £0.15p. Previous EPS 10.82p. Board look forward to an interesting and challenging period ahead.



# Fitch Lovell serves up 20% rise in profits to £27.8m

By Carol Ferguson

Fitch Lovell, the food manufacturer, continued to make solid progress last year. Preliminary results for the 53 weeks to end-April revealed a 20 per cent jump in pretax profits to £27.8 million, on turnover up 18 per cent to £539 million.

The group is, however, fast running out of tax losses and unrelieved advance corporation tax, and the steadily rising tax charge held back earnings per share to 24.87p, up just 13 per cent. The dividend was increased 6 per cent to 12p net, and the shares were static at 293p.

The results were boosted by £1.3 million in property profits, excluding which the jump in pretax profits is 17 per cent.

Mr Geoffrey Hankins, the group chairman and chief executive, said: "Our programme of investment in expansion and rationalization and the cash cost of acquisitions, principally the food service operations of Pullman Foods, have resulted in an increased interest charge of £2.3 million."

Fitch spent £20 million on capital investment last year, and another £5 million on acquisitions, taking gearing up to 40 per cent.

The results were also ad-



Food for thought: Geoffrey Hankins, Fitch Lovell chairman

versely affected by £1 million of non-recurring costs on the reorganization of Trent, its meat business, and £500,000 start-up costs in Blue Cap, a frozen food distributor.

Mr Stuart Guthrie-Brown, the deputy chairman, said distribution profits were £11.8

million last year, two-thirds of which came from supplying the catering sector, which he sees as fast growing and competitive.

"Catering is a diverse market, unlikely to be dominated by a single combine in the same way that food retailing is

dominated by the major supermarkets," he said. "But even where there is a multiple caterer, we can supply his needs for the same product across the UK, quickly."

Food manufacturing contributed £18.1 million and comprises three main divisions — fish, convenience foods, and meat and delicatessen.

Mr Guthrie-Brown said: "We came into the fish business in 1985, and we have built a £50 million turnover business since then by acquisition. Our organic growth was 20 per cent last year in a market which did not grow because of high fish prices due to shortage of supply."

In convenience foods, he said demand for frozen ready-meals was strong. But the fresh and cooked meats operations at Trent suffered a setback. "We have consolidated our cooked meat production and slicing activities into two modern plants at Brighouse and Bedford, and during the current year these new facilities will also absorb the poultry meat processing operations," he said.

Sandwiches are also proving to be a growth area, and a £2.5 million factory at Milton Keynes is due to start production in the autumn. Another factory is planned in the North of England. *Tempus*, page 22

## Elstree's first investor is named

By Martin Waller

The first investor in the consortium bid for Elstree film studios in Hertfordshire was yesterday named as Stonehill Holdings, the furniture company in which Mr Nazmu Virani's Control Securities has a quarter stake.

Stonehill's property subsidiary, NS Estates, has put £1 million into the consortium, which was formed by Tranwood Earl & Company, the small merchant bank, to buy the studios from the Cannon Group.

Tranwood Earl, headed by demerger specialist Mr Peter Earl, has acted in the past for the group which stepped in to rescue Stonehill last October. Stonehill and Control are jointly developing a 7.75-acre site in Edmonton, north London.

News of the Elstree sale was met with protest from the film world last week, and Hertsmere Borough Council, the local authority concerned, has also said it wants film-making to continue in the area, although its leader, Mr Chris Watts, said last night that there were various other possible uses for the site.

Mr James Buchanan, chairman of Stonehill, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

## COMMENT A hybrid issue would ease Vodafone logjam

It is becoming increasingly clear that a battle royal is in prospect over Rascal's controversial plan to float off its brilliantly successful Vodafone operation at some time in the autumn.

The diehard institutions are being asked to make a special case and allow a deal that will benefit the company enormously, but at the sacrifice of forgoing their rights of first refusal on the new shares issued in the flotation. Some smaller shareholders will also side with their professional colleagues and demand difficult answers to the question, "why should we be asked to pay for shares in a company that we own already?"

There is a compromise solution now being touted around the City which will not entirely satisfy the critics. But it will go some way towards breaking the logjam which might otherwise threaten the whole exercise. Rascal maintains that by giving way to the principle of shareholder sovereignty, it will be forced to sell Vodafone for a far lower valuation than might otherwise be the case, or alternatively mount a conventional rights issue to fund its development programme.

In the US there is an almost insatiable demand these days for cellular radio stocks such as Vodafone and the realizable value there of Rascal's brainchild would be £2 billion — at least 50 per cent higher than British investors are likely to accept.

It is clear that Rascal is not prepared to contemplate an offer without a substantial part of the stock being offered in the

United States to take advantage of the glamour status of cellular stocks there. The compromise would be a hybrid issue in which part of the sale took the form of a rights issue to existing shareholders, and the rest a straight-forward offer for sale aimed at the US.

This would allow cautious British institutions unable to stomach stratospheric price earnings multiples to sell their rights in the market. The same would apply to smaller brethren who either felt the same way about the valuation or who lacked the funds to take up their allotted stock. Both categories of investor would of course benefit from the £400 million or so of funds which Rascal would generate from the sale in order to develop the growing and cash-hungry part of the business.

This approach would not of course satisfy the purists. But it would be better than an offer for sale with a guaranteed clawback for existing holders of Rascal stock. For that route, increasingly pursued these days, gives no realizable rights which can be disposed of easily.

The outcome of this debate will test the flexibility of the leading institutions which boast to a man their willingness to listen to all manner of schemes providing they are in the best interests of shareholders. Fighting Rascal's management over pre-emption rights would be to look a gift horse in the mouth, especially if the institutions are offered the rights issue option. This allows them as close as they are likely to get to the best of both worlds.

## National Telecom seeks full listing

By Our City Staff

National Telecommunications, one of Britain's leading distributors of telephone switching systems and telephone equipment for smaller businesses, is seeking a full listing by way of an offer for sale.

The offer price of 120p a share values the group at £29.7 million.

The company has developed its own range of hybrid PBXs, marketed under the London brand name.

The group won approval for its first PBX, the London 12, in 1985 and a year later acquired AnsaFone, then its maintenance contractor.

Pre-tax profits last year were £2.9 million, up 48 per cent on the previous year. However,

the group made losses in the previous three financial years, largely as the result of the level of investment in new product development and marketing.

Turnover in the last five years has risen from £600,000 to £19.5 million for the year to end-March.

At the offer price, the shares are on an historic price/earnings ratio of 11.8, and yield 2.2 per cent. Of the 9.25 million shares being offered, 2.9 million are being sold by existing shareholders, and the balance are new shares, which will raise about £6.4 million for the company after expenses.

The offer is sponsored by Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

## Figures are halved at Aitken Hume

By Cliff Feltham

Aitken Hume International, the financial services group, yesterday reported a sharp drop in profits, and announced plans to sell its Sentinel Life insurance and unit trust business.

Mr Emmanuel Olympitis, managing director, said that Sentinel had suffered since the Financial Services Act because financial advisers had concentrated on selling more established products.

Aitken Hume bought Sentinel for £16.6 million in 1985. "We are in no hurry to sell. But some building societies have expressed an interest in buying the business," said Mr Olympitis.

Aitken Hume, which has

suffered a severe boardroom upheaval resulting in the recent departure of Mr Tony Constance, the chief executive, unveiled a drop in pre-tax profits from £7.1 million to £3.2 million for the year to the end of March.

But there is a final dividend of 1p, making a total for the year of 2.5p, against 2p last year.

The main reason for the fall in profits was the reduced contribution from National Securities and Research Corporation, the group's US mutual fund arm which was hit by a drop in sales and a sharp rise in redemptions.

On the stock market Aitken Hume shares fell 2p to 91p.

## Parnes told he may go to France

Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker and a central figure in the Guinness affair, had his bail conditions altered when he appeared at Bow Street Court yesterday.

Mr Parnes, aged 41, is now allowed to travel to France to visit his wife and two children. But he will have to tell police in England of his travel plans before he goes, and surrender his passport to the French authorities while he is staying in France.

Sir David Hopkin, the chief metropolitan magistrate, said that Mr Parnes will also have to report each day to the British consul during the time he spends in France.

Mr Parnes is accused of 19 offences relating to the Guinness takeover of Distillers for £2.5 billion in 1986.

He was already on bail in the sum of £500,000, with a condition that he surrender his passport, which could be returned within 24 hours for business travel to the United States. He was remanded until Monday.

## Lawson's inflation tightrope

The Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, is treading a tightrope between sounding complacent and causing alarm. Judging by his actions rather than his words he is evidently well aware of the needs of the economy. But yesterday speaking at the annual lunch of the Cities of London and Westminster he erred a little on the side of complacency.

Twice on recent occasions Mr Lawson has characterized his response to over-rapid growth in the economy as one "without drama." Interest rates have now risen 2½ points during the past five weeks which is a substantial increase, but because it has occurred in half-point steps people have not been as aware of it as the size of the jump might suggest.

When monetary policy has been tightened on previous occasions rates have typically been raised in large steps — not less than 1 percentage point and often in past years by up to 2 percentage points or during the 1970s even more. Having ascended the scarp slope the descent on the other side was accomplished in gentle half-point stages.

This pattern was deliberately de-

signed to maximize the impact on inflationary expectations of a monetary tightening and minimize the risk of a boom in the high street from easier money. Mr Lawson's new way has the merit of avoiding any sense of crisis but it has the demerit of minimizing consumer consciousness about the change.

The Chancellor will be hoping that increases in mortgage rates will drive the message home.

Mr Lawson rejected various fashionable prescriptions currently being parroted around the City, including an emergency fiscal package and direct control of credit.

Credit controls have never worked effectively in the past and they are certainly not likely to in today's sophisticated financial markets.

Where Mr Lawson sounds a touch complacent is over the current account deficit. While it does not reflect a deficit in the public sector, and in that sense is quite different from the deficits of the past, it is still telling us something about the economy to which Government policy must respond. By the autumn we may know whether the recent rise in rates has done the trick.

## MTM plays 'a willing victim'

From Iver Davis, Los Angeles

Mary Tyler Moore, the actress and businesswoman, described herself as a willing foreign takeover victim after confirmation that her MTM Entertainment Company had been acquired by Television South for £190.5 million.

At a press conference, Miss Moore, flanked by three top executives of her company, with its famous sewing kitten logo in the background, called the acquisition "a very important and exciting day for us, both corporately and individually."

In response to a question on whether she felt she was the victim of a foreign takeover, she laughed. "I feel like we've been given a tremendous opportunity to grow, especially in the European market," Miss Moore gained £48 million cash from the takeover.

Mr Arthur Price, the MTM president, said the company's management viewed the takeover as "a merger out of which will grow a bigger and stronger company."

TVS, in fact, will fully control MTM if shareholders approve the takeover. The

four MTM owners, including Miss Moore and Mr Price, will have just 15 per cent of the enlarged TVS Entertainment.

The North Hollywood film and television company's principal asset is a library containing more than 1,000 hours of programmes, including *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Lou Grant*, *Hill Street Blues* and *St Elsewhere*. The company also holds a 50 per cent interest in the CBS/MTM Co, a partnership whose biggest asset is a valuable 40-acre film factory in the heart of Hollywood and a controlling interest in MTM Ardmore Studios in Dublin.

According to a prospectus issued in connection with the proposed acquisition, MTM had pre-tax profits of \$43.8 million last year, up from \$41.1 million in 1986.

Miss Moore said she would use some of the money she receives from the deal "philanthropically."

"I have a number of medical projects that are very close to me," she added.

According to Mr Price, who founded the company in 1970 with Miss Moore

and her former husband, Mr Grant Tinker, the MTM team will stay the same, as will the company name.

"There will be no change in personnel or creative attitude," said Mr Price. "The only thing that will change is that our bank account will move from New York to London. [TVS chief executive] Mr James Gattward has no intention of coming over here and telling us how to run the company."

In the past, TVS has distributed many MTM programmes internationally. Mr David Gersh, the lead US counsel for TVS, described the acquisition as "a brilliant synergistic deal that has long-term consequences for the television business."

He added: "Both companies were looking for a foreign market. That's what made the marriage. It gives TVS access to the US market and a major production facility."

Miss Moore is the company's non-executive director and will continue with her acting career.

She is starring in a new TV comedy series in New York.

## 'Rocket Tours' has lift-off

Ian "Rocket" Stephenson, once one of the stars of Wood Mackenzie, the broker, has not totally turned his back on the City since his departure four months ago. Stephenson, who is aged 42, voluntarily gave up his job as the director responsible for United Kingdom institutional sales, to start a new life for himself and his wife Patsy in Spain. "It's time to see what else I can do with my life," he told me at the time. But earlier this week, drawn by the sirens of Throgmorton Street, he was, I hear, back visiting his old haunts in the Square Mile, to launch his new business venture, an executive-style holiday company, registered in nearby Gibraltar, called Gesco. Aiming primarily at "work hard, play hard" City and business supplies, the fledgling company intends to provide exclusive short break holidays for people with loads of money but not much time. "The idea is to offer long weekends or week-long holidays with all the sporting activities you specify, organized to slot into your timetable like clockwork," says Duskovic. A salesman at County NatWest Wood-Mac, who visited the Stephensons in their luxury apartment 30 miles along the coast from the Rock last week. His first customers are due to arrive this weekend — a batch of 20 or so former colleagues, accompanied by a few clients and some friends. Stand by for their report...

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Loan arranger rides in

Those at the top of the Chase Manhattan Securities tree were obviously aware that a few branches were about to be pruned, as illustrated by the recent dismissal of some three dozen staff deemed to be surplus to requirements. One former employee — recently "retrained" — tells me he was refused a mortgage by Chase at the commercial rate a few months ago, despite being on the staff payroll. When John Massey, an experienced £60,000-a-year traded options dealer, applied to the company for a loan for house purchase, he was refused. No explanation was given to him at the time, he ruefully reveals. He did not read anything into the refusal at the time, but it now becomes clear that there was a method in the Chase madness after all.

### MFI to rescue

Is nothing that crosses the path of Alastair Ross Goobey, international economic investment strategist at James



"Diamonds are forever, but for the short term he's giving me soyabeans."

Capel, safe from a mention in his witty weekly newsletter, *From Your Side of the Desk*? In his latest edition, published yesterday, he concludes that "the relative UK economic revival is not over." Then, giving away the political leanings of his family, he quotes his "dear mother" who, he says, made a malapropism worthy of Sheridan himself last week. The poor woman, no doubt now deeply embarrassed, apparently told her son: "Whatever faults there are in the current government's economic policies, at least they are not as bad as the last Labour government, who ended up having to go to the MFI." For the benefit of foreign readers, Goobey then adds a footnote explaining that MFI is actually a "well-known retailer of popularly priced flat-pack kitchen furniture."

## Lingard's no laggard

If James Lingard, the 52-year-old insolvency partner with City solicitors Norton Rose, is caught napping in his office he should, for once, be excused. As adviser to the Securities and Investments Board, it was Lingard who had to ensure that all the i's had been dotted and the t's crossed on the winding-up petition for Barlow Clowes. On top of that he has been advising on the financing of the Spitalfields Development for the consortium comprising LET, Balfour Beatty and Costain. And as if that is not a busy enough schedule, he has, in his spare time, been writing the second edition of his legal textbook, *Bank Security Documents*, first published in 1985. "I've been working on it for about a year," Lingard says. "It's about 50 or 60 pages longer and is quite considerably altered — it now covers the Insolvency Act and about 60 new cases including charge cards." The second edition, just published by Butterworths, has also been written with bankers in mind. "I hope bankers who deal in security documents will find it useful — their legal departments should certainly have it," he says.

● The Post Office Users' National Council issued a report this week bemoaning Post Office inactivity over the suggestions they had made for improving service. It still had not arrived when the Post Office came through on the phone, anxious to reply. Of course not. POUNC had sent it by post.

Carol Leonard

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8th July, 1988.







## Molins hopes for royalties bonanza in US patent suit

**From Bailey Morris, Washington**

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie, sitting at a desk with his hands clasped. The image is heavily stylized, appearing almost like a woodcut or a high-threshold photograph. The man is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark and textured.

Sir Terence promised the City he would add to his non-executive directors in September, on the abrupt departure of

They left after Sir Terence's announcement that he would

The two shared a £599,000 compensation payment revealed in Storehouse's annual report published last month.

The patent was filed in the US in 1965 when the concept of computer-controlled clusters of machines performing

His work appeared so promising that Molins was persuaded to file patents in several industrialized countries in the 1960s but its early efforts to develop the process, notably for an IBM plant in Minnesota, failed because the computers were not sophisticated enough.

According to the *New York Times*, the matter would have ended there if Molins had dropped its patent claims in the US as it had done in other

In addition, Molins had the good fortune to retain a tenacious Maryland attorney, Mr John Smith, who offered to pursue the claim from 1979 onward without fees, in return for a one-half interest in the spoils.

Since then, the use of computer-driven machine clusters to perform various functions, making everything from cars to household appliances, has

Some large US companies, tired of waiting for the litigation to end, have negotiated lucrative licences with Molins. They include General Motors.

Some large US companies, tired of waiting for the litigation to end, have negotiated lucrative licences with Molins. They include General Motors.

## Security

make an impact in a competitive market.

This area of the business was also affected by sterling and dollar exchange considerations, with sales through Inertiaguard, the group's Californian joint venture, falling short of budget.

The group continues to build on its presence in the US market, and since the year-end has formed a new subsidiary under the operating name of Advanced Vehicle Concepts, which will deal with car security design.

## Record year for First Security

**By Geoffrey Foster**

shares of First Security, the car electronics to security detection products group, advanced 8p to 345p on news that the company had made record pre-tax profits of £2.53 million for the year to April 30, up 23 per cent on last time. Turnover rose 17 per cent to £14.9 million.

The final dividend is 3.3p, making a total of 5p compared with last year's 4.2p.

**The company's strategy of seeking growth through market leadership in niche markets continues.**

It enters the new financial year with a strong balance sheet and insignificant borrowings. The order book is full across its established car security and fire businesses, with contributions from Humanetics and Fdes, the recent US acquisitions, coming through.

The car security division is performing well. More than 4 million units of its popular crash sensors were sold, with Ford recently signing a new four-year sole supply contract. During the year, Mazda of

Japan and Kia of Korea were added to the list of crash sensor users.

The fire division had a good second half, finishing with record order books. Fire detection systems and extinguisher sales proved much better than expected, while Vesda, the very early warning fire detection system, and Fireray, the long-range infra-red detection system, both beat sales targets.

Several new products were introduced in the security division, which has yet to

**make an impact in a competitive market.**

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## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Lead Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
June 27	July 3	September 28	October 10
<p>BSG options were bought on 7/27/88. Main Box, AS&amp;M Group; Elswick, BSG, K&amp;R Energy, South, GT Management, L&amp;S&amp;M, Barfield, Royal Bank of Scotland, Portland, Leisure Int, Scotland &amp; Newcastle, BP, Edmond, Tuskar, Norfolk Capital, Ashley Int, C Baynes.</p> <p>Puts: Morgan Grenfell, Hope Robinson; BSG, Elswick, Plessey, United Guarantee.</p> <p>Puts &amp; Calls: C Baynes, Morgan Grenfell.</p>			

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Cuts					Rate							Cuts					Rate				
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Alld Lyon (424)	380	35	20	18	17	7	11	12	13	14	15	Shaw	802	70	120	145	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Bain (705)	800	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	West	1600	43	65	88	107	127	147	167	187	207	227
Ind Air (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(144)	1108	14	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	
Ind Com (256)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	Number	480	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	
Ind Gen (62)	170	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(705)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (118)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(144)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	Number	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(705)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
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Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	Number	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(705)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(144)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	Number	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(705)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(144)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
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Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(144)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	Number	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	
Ind Ind (148)	180	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	(705)	560	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190		

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This image shows a single, vertically oriented page from a lined notebook. The paper is white with faint, horizontal blue or grey ruling lines spaced evenly down its length. On the left side, there are three visible metal binder rings or staples holding the page in place. The top edge of the page is slightly curved, suggesting it's part of a bound volume. There is no handwriting or printed text on the page.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

100

0410	W Germany	1.8135-1.8142
0160	Switzerland	1.5075-1.5085
0115	Netherlands	2.2125-2.2135

100

**COINS:**  
 1/2 12 mth 103 12-1-10

14-00000

DISCO

1

00	Feb	94.8	94.8
	Live Cattle Contract		



# Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better, then you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
7	As New Z	Bank/Discount	
8	Biton (P)	Property	
9	Trent	Building/Roads	
10	West & Country	Property	
11	Hunter	Industrials E-K	
12	Ziffert Gp	Leisure	
13	PS Holdings	Industrials E-K	
14	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
15	Redland (Int.)	Building/Roads	
16	Lister	Textiles	
17	Be Mohair	Textiles	
18	Reylon	Industrials L-R	
19	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
20	Becc	Industrials E-K	
21	Hampton Ind.	Industrials E-K	
22	CALA	Property	
23	Barent (H)	Industrials A-D	
24	Blue Arrow (Int.)	Industrials A-D	
25	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	
26	Foster (John)	Textiles	
27	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
28	Ransome Sims	Industrials L-R	
29	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
30	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
31	P & P	Electronics	
32	Tool	Textiles	
33	Shawcross	Building/Roads	
34	Macklow (A&I)	Property	
35	Monting Group	Industrials E-K	
36	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly

## BRITISH FUNDS

1987/8 High Low Stock Price Chg % Yr

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
7	As New Z	Bank/Discount	
8	Biton (P)	Property	
9	Trent	Building/Roads	
10	West & Country	Property	
11	Hunter	Industrials E-K	
12	Ziffert Gp	Leisure	
13	PS Holdings	Industrials E-K	
14	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
15	Redland (Int.)	Building/Roads	
16	Lister	Textiles	
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18	Reylon	Industrials L-R	
19	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
20	Becc	Industrials E-K	
21	Hampton Ind.	Industrials E-K	
22	CALA	Property	
23	Barent (H)	Industrials A-D	
24	Blue Arrow (Int.)	Industrials A-D	
25	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	
26	Foster (John)	Textiles	
27	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
28	Ransome Sims	Industrials L-R	
29	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
30	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
31	P & P	Electronics	
32	Tool	Textiles	
33	Shawcross	Building/Roads	
34	Macklow (A&I)	Property	
35	Monting Group	Industrials E-K	
36	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
7	As New Z	Bank/Discount	
8	Biton (P)	Property	
9	Trent	Building/Roads	
10	West & Country	Property	
11	Hunter	Industrials E-K	
12	Ziffert Gp	Leisure	
13	PS Holdings	Industrials E-K	
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15	Redland (Int.)	Building/Roads	
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19	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
20	Becc	Industrials E-K	
21	Hampton Ind.	Industrials E-K	
22	CALA	Property	
23	Barent (H)	Industrials A-D	
24	Blue Arrow (Int.)	Industrials A-D	
25	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	
26	Foster (John)	Textiles	
27	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
28	Ransome Sims	Industrials L-R	
29	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
30	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
31	P & P	Electronics	
32	Tool	Textiles	
33	Shawcross	Building/Roads	
34	Macklow (A&I)	Property	
35	Monting Group	Industrials E-K	
36	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
7	As New Z	Bank/Discount	
8	Biton (P)	Property	
9	Trent	Building/Roads	
10	West & Country	Property	
11	Hunter	Industrials E-K	
12	Ziffert Gp	Leisure	
13	PS Holdings	Industrials E-K	
14	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
15	Redland (Int.)	Building/Roads	
16	Lister	Textiles	
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19	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
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25	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	
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29	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
30	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
31	P & P	Electronics	
32	Tool	Textiles	
33	Shawcross	Building/Roads	
34	Macklow (A&I)	Property	
35	Monting Group	Industrials E-K	
36	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

## UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
7	As New Z	Bank/Discount	
8	Biton (P)	Property	
9	Trent	Building/Roads	
10	West & Country	Property	
11	Hunter	Industrials E-K	
12	Ziffert Gp	Leisure	
13	PS Holdings	Industrials E-K	
14	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
15	Redland (Int.)	Building/Roads	
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18	Reylon	Industrials L-R	
19	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
20	Becc	Industrials E-K	
21	Hampton Ind.	Industrials E-K	
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23	Barent (H)	Industrials A-D	
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26	Foster (John)	Textiles	
27	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
28	Ransome Sims	Industrials L-R	
29	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
30	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
31	P & P	Electronics	
32	Tool	Textiles	
33	Shawcross	Building/Roads	
34	Macklow (A&I)	Property	
35	Monting Group	Industrials E-K	
36	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

## INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
7	As New Z	Bank/Discount	
8	Biton (P)	Property	
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20	Becc	Industrials E-K	
21	Hampton Ind.	Industrials E-K	
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38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aerospace Eng.	Industrials A-D	
2	Anglo Sec.	Building/Roads	
3	Yorkshire	Textiles	
4	Woodward (Int.)	Draperies/Stores	
5	Messers	Electronics	
6	Harris (Qatar)	Draperies/Stores	
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29	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
30	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
31	P & P	Electronics	
32	Tool	Textiles	
33	Shawcross	Building/Roads	
34	Macklow (A&I)	Property	
35	Monting Group	Industrials E-K	
36	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
38	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
39	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
40	Bredon PLC	Building/Roads	
41	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
42	Weston	Industrials S-Z	

## ELECTRICALS

9	Chicomp	101	-	-		
160	Lloyds Bros	175	185	-	6.2	3.4
	Commerzbank	76				22.3
112	Leeds & Hall	152		-1.0		
24	Farmy & Girt	31		-1	7.3	6.6
27	First Nat Finance	140	245	-	12.3	5.1
53	GPO	140		-1	3.5	8.6
178	Wardlaw & Pat	29		-2	21.0	8.3
219	Martins	252		-1	12.2	10.0
415	John Smiths	345		-1	3	9.9
417	Jensens (London)	410	425	-5	15.3	43
128	Fine & Stronach	115	250		12.3	29
130	Bank of Africa	175	285		12.3	5







## Motoring by Clifford Webb

## Mazda's advantage on all fours

When I drove the new Honda Prelude 2.0i-16 with its controversial four-wheel steering, I wasn't convinced that the extra manoeuvrability was worth it and I had reservations about its straight-line stability.

I have technical reservations about its only rival on the British market, the 4WS Mazda 626-2.0i GT.

It shows appreciable all-round advantages over conventional two-wheel steering. That lives the would-be buyer with the simple decision: is it worth the extra money? Finding how much extra I not quite so simple.

Mazda's 4WS costs £850 on the 626 but it has equipped the car with so many other extras, including colour-keyed alloy wheels and air conditioning, that it costs £2,000 more than the appropriate 2V 626.

Load with costly extras is a regular play when new technology comes on to the market in the very first time.

It is understandable from a profit motive but sadly for us motorists it means that we have to y through the nose for innovation.



Technology on the move: the Mazda 626 GT 4WS, sure-footed and with a host of extras

It is even more confusing in Mazda's case because it has chosen to launch 4WS here on the five-door "family" version of the 626 rather than the more sporty coupe which normally appeals to better heeled drivers.

The Honda and Mazda systems differ significantly. The Honda rear wheels respond solely to the steering effort applied to the front wheels.

Mazda supplements this with electronic speed sensing so that the degree of rear wheel

steer is controlled by a combination of front-wheel angle and car speed.

On the road I found the Mazda's sharper response to the steering wheel gave the car a new agility without upsetting its stability. It was more progressive in its reaction than the Honda and felt rock steady on the motorway. There was also less body lean in corners.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time with this very impressive newcomer.

## Vital statistics

Model: Mazda 626 2.0i GT 4WS

Price: £15,579

Engine: 1998cc DOHC 4-cylinder, 16-valve

Performance: 0-60mph 8.3 seconds, maximum speed 126mph

Official consumption: Urban 25.2mpg, 58mpg, 42.2mpg, 75mpg 34.5mpg

Length: 14.8 feet

Insurance: Group 7

## Lining up a battle of the hitches

The battle for the big selling Escort-Golf sector of the market is 'lining up' with this week's news from Renault that it is replacing the ageing R911i with the brand new R11.

It goes on sale in France in September and should reach Britain by early next year.

Renault has had some hard knocks lately and is looking to the R11 to restore its fortunes.

An indication of the importance it attaches to the new R11 is that from day one it will be sold in 27 versions and ultimately there will be 7. By then, the range will comprise 16 engine options, five and five-door hatchbacks and four levels of equipment.

There are three new engines, including a so-called



Fighting with the middleweight heavies: the all-new Renault 19 in five-door hatchback form

Energy unit manufactured in Spain and designed to run on unleaded petrol.

Its capacity ranges from 1000 to 1400cc. Also new is a 16-valve 1764cc engine developing 140bhp and a 1870cc diesel.

Some four inches longer than the car it replaces, the R19 is claimed to be more aerodynamically slippery than its rivals, has as much interior space as cars in the next class up, will handle like the much-praised R21 and, because of planned investment in robots, will be cheaper to build and therefore very competitively priced.

When the Renault 19 reaches the British market next year, it will find one of its toughest rivals already established. Fiat's new Tipo goes on sale here next week, making similar claims of cost and technical ability.

One of them is already checkable - competitive prices. The base model Tipo 1.4 will cost only £7,150, 1.4DGT £7,740, 1.6DGT £8,090, 1.6DGT SX £8,550 and a 1.9 Turbo Diesel £9,990. All the petrol engines can run on unleaded fuel.

Standard equipment includes five-speed gearbox, rear wiper, low-profile tyres, split folding rear seats and stereo radio-cassette with four speakers.

It is no longer than rivals in the 13ft class but is wider and taller, giving a noticeable feeling of extra space. With the longest wheelbase in its class - literally a wheel at each corner - it is sure-footed and very safe. The big rear hatch is made from glass-reinforced plastic, showing a considerable weight saving, and a shape that would not have been possible with steel.

## Arrival of a rival

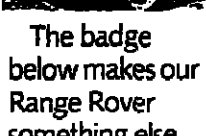
## CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

## FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

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- 1988 E FI Vogue SE Casper Blue Auto DEL MSL22995.0  
1988 E FI Vogue Diesel Atlantic Blue Man DEL MSL24000.0  
1988 E FI Vogue Colorado Silver Man DEL MSL22995.0  
1987 E FI Vogue Cyprus Green Auto 8,000m... £22995.0  
1987 E FI Vogue Auto A/C Savannah Beige... £22500.0  
1987 D FI Vogue Auto White 17,000m... £22995.0  
1987 D FI Vogue Auto A/C Casca Red 17,000m £20995.0  
1986 E FI Vogue Casper Blue Manual 33,000m £17995.0  
1986 E FI Vogue Cyprus Green A/C Auto 43,000m £17500.0  
1985 E FI Vogue Manual Balmoral Green... £16600.0  
1984 E FI Vogue A/C Auto, Derwent Blue 42,000m £12995.0  
1984 A Vogue Phase 2 Astor Silver Man 40,000m £11995.0  
1984 A Vogue Phase 2, 4 door manual Balmoral Green £10500.0  
1982 X 4 door Vogue Auto 50,000m... £3500.0  
1982 X 4 door Vogue Auto 43,000m £2750.0  
1979 T Lincoln Green Pas & P/ack 41,000m... £4950.0

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# Surety for rent liable to assignee

**P & A with Investments (a Firm) v Combined English Stores Group plc**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton (Speeches July 7)

A surety guaranteed by covenant that a tenant would pay the rent, in the event of the tenant's default, the assignee of the lease could recover the unpaid rent from the surety even though the benefit of the lease had not been assigned to the assignee.

The House of Lords dismissed appeal by the defendant, Combined English Stores Group plc, from a decision of the Queen's Bench Division, who on January 29, 1986, gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff, P & A with Investments, in the sum of £42,500 being the amount of unpaid rent due to the plaintiff.

The case raised a point of law of general public importance which was covered by a provision of the Law of Property Act 1925, which provided that a surety for rent was not discharged by the assignment of the lease to a new tenant.

The House of Lords, by a majority of 3 to 2, held that the surety was not discharged by the assignment of the lease to a new tenant.

leave to appeal direct to their Lordships' House.

Mr Michael Barnes, QC and Mr David Neuberger, QC for the defendant, surety, Mr John Stuart Colyer, QC and Mr Martin Zeidman for the plaintiff.

**LORD OLIVER** said that the appeal raised the much debated question whether the benefit of a covenant by a surety for rent was enforceable under a lease which was capable of running with the reversion so as to be available without express assignment to the successor in title of the original landlord.

The point had been decided in favour of a landlord by the Court of Appeal in *Kumar v Dunning* (1987) 3 WLR 1167 at the time of the hearing before the judge and his order was made without hearing full argument since he was bound by that decision.

The relevant facts could be shortly stated. By an underlease the original landlord demised the premises to a subsidiary of the defendant, who as surety guaranteed the payment of the rent. After it was wound up voluntarily the original landlord and its liquidator, by conveyance, assigned the leasehold reversion to the plaintiff.

The conveyance did not contain any specific assignment of the benefit of the surety's covenant. The underlease failed to pay the rent due under the underlease for several months and then went into creditors' voluntary winding up. The defendant had not paid the outstanding rent although called upon to do so.

The relationship between the landlord and a surety was contractual only. The surety had no interest in the land demised and there was thus no privity of estate.

In seeking to enforce the surety's covenant an assignee of the reversion could not rely upon the provisions of the Law of Property Act 1925, which were substantially re-enacted in section 141 of the Law of Property Act 1969 and which applied only to covenants between landlord and tenant.

His claim to enforce rested upon the common-law rule, under which the benefit of the covenant would run with the land if, but only if, the assignee had the legal estate in the land and the covenant was one which "touch and concern" the land.

In his Lordship's opinion the question of whether a surety's covenant in a lease touched and concerned the land fell to be determined by the same test as

that applicable to the tenant's covenant.

His Lordship was content to accept the analysis and conclusion of Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, in *Kumar v Dunning*, that the correct principle was that the benefit of a surety's covenant was enforceable by an assignee of the reversion if the assignee was a landlord or a tenant of the land demised and the covenant was one which "touch and concern" the land.

It had been said that the surety's obligation was simply that of paying money and in a sense that was true if one looked only at the remedy which the landlord had against him in the event of default by the tenant. But his Lordship did not think that that was a complete analysis.

The tenant covenanted that he would do or refrain from doing certain things which undoubtedly touched and concerned the land. A surety covenanted that those things should be done or not done.

It was true that the remedy for breach would sound in damages only, but the primary object of the covenant was to ensure that the land was used in a particular way. It was covenanted to be done or not done. If that obligation of the tenant touched and concerned the land that of the surety must equally do so.

Formulations of definitive tests were always dangerous but without claiming to expound an exhaustive guide, the following provided a satisfactory working test for whether, in any given case, a covenant touched and concerned the land:

- 1 The covenant benefited only the reversioner for the time being.
- 2 The covenant affected the nature, quality, mode of user or value of the reversioner's land.
- 3 The covenant was not expressed to be personal.
- 4 The fact that a covenant was to pay a sum of money would not prevent it from touching and concerning the land so long as the three foregoing conditions were satisfied and the covenant was connected with something to be done on, to or in relation to the land.

His Lordship was entirely satisfied that the decision in *Kumar v Dunning* was correct. The present case was indistinguishable in any material respect.

Lord Templeman delivered a concurring speech and Lord Keith, Lord Roskill and Lord Ackner agreed with both speeches.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Rose & Birn, Stoke Newington.

**Other v Norman**  
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton (Speeches July 7)

The daily provision of continental breakfast to a tenant by a landlord constituted "board" for the purpose of excluding the tenancy from statutory protection pursuant to section 7(1) of the Rent Act 1977.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the tenant, Mr Gerard Norman, from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Waterhouse) (The Times August 3, 1987) (1988) 2 WLR 250 of his appeal from an order of West London County Court (Mr. Assistant Registrar H. W. Burnett, QC) granting possession of the room of which he was tenant to the landlord, Mr Charles Otter.

Mr Robert Pryor, QC and Mr Mark Dancer for the tenant; Mr David Neuberger, QC and Mr Paul de la Piquette for the landlord.

**LORD BRIDGE** said that the appellant was the tenant of a

No question was raised as to the bona fides of the letting at a rent which included payments for that daily meal. The sole question was whether it amounted to "board" under section 7(1) of the Rent Act 1977 so as to defeat the tenant's claim to a protected tenancy.

With the growing popularity of holidays on the Continent, one had grown accustomed to the use of the phrases "full board" and "half board". If half board related to breakfast plus one additional meal, there was no reason as a matter of language or logic why breakfast "room" in a large house where 36 rooms were let as bed-sitting rooms. His weekly rent was raised in 1985 to £70.

Part of the consideration for the rent was the daily provision of a continental breakfast served in a communal dining room in the basement where there was a large kitchen staffed by employees of the landlord.

The breakfast comprised bread rolls with butter, jam and marmalade, unlimited tea or coffee, accompanied by fruit, and a glass of milk which the tenant took to drink in his room.

by itself should not amount to partial "board", subject always to the implicit requirement that the provision of the meal to the tenant included the ancillary services involved in preparing it and the provision of crockery and cutlery with which to eat it.

Accordingly, even if there had been no relevant authority, his Lordship would have agreed with the courts below in rejecting the tenant's contention. But his Lordship's view was greatly strengthened by the only authority in point and the legislative history.

There had been no reported English decision after *Wilkes v Goodwin* (1923) 2 KB 86, 93, 96. But Parliament had chosen not to interfere in relation to "board", and it seemed to have been assumed ever since that the majority view in *Wilkes v Goodwin*, albeit expressed obiter, correctly stated the law that "any amount of board" which was more than de minimis would suffice to exclude a tenancy from statutory protection.

Thus successive editions of *Magory, The Rent Act* has stated: "In practice, the dividing line appears to fall between the

early morning cup of tea on the one hand and 'bed and breakfast' on the other". The same view had been adopted in Scotland.

It had to be assumed that for many years many landlords and tenants had regulated their relationships on that basis, and even if a different construction could have been reasonably placed on section 7(1), it would not have been right to adopt it now.

The courts had consistently set their faces against artificial and contrived devices whereby landlords had sought to deny to tenants the protection intended to be conferred by the Rent Acts.

His Lordship did not believe that anything of that kind was involved here. A bona fide obligation by a landlord to serve even such a modest daily meal as the continental breakfast with which the present case was concerned was hardly likely to appeal to the unscrupulous landlord as a soft option.

Lord Brandon, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: Oliver O. Fisher & Co, West Kensington; Boodle Hatfield.

## Licensed conveyancers tribunal is entitled to expect high standards of conduct

**Hewell Council of Licensed Conveyancers**  
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Macpherson (Judgment July 7)

The Discipline and Appeals Committee of the Council for Licensed Conveyancers was entitled to uphold high standards of conduct in order to preserve the confidence of the public.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing an appeal, brought under section 2(7) of the Administration of Justice Act 1985, by Peter Hewell against an order of the committee constituted under the Act that he be disqualified for holding a conveyancing licence for 12 months and that his existing licence be revoked.

The court rejected submissions that (i) it was open to the court to re-sentence the appellant (ii) standards of behaviour required of licensed conveyancers were lower than those to be expected of solicitors, that being officers of the court.

Mr Philip Hadden for the appellant Mr David Elvin for the Council for Licensed Conveyancers.

**LORD JUSTICE WATKINS** said that this was the first time a licensed conveyancer had ap

pealed to the court from a decision of the Discipline and Appeals Committee and that the court would endeavour to lay guidelines for the future. The appeal was against sentence only.

In 1983 and 1984 the appellant was employed as a solicitor. Unfortunately his principal became disreputable and abused the trust reposed in him as a solicitor and set about defrauding banks. He was assisted to some degree by the appellant.

In March 1988 the appellant was convicted of three offences of false accounting and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for two years.

Meanwhile in May 1987 the appellant had become a licensed conveyancer. It had been argued that whatever the appellant did he did not do it in the course of his occupation as a licensed conveyancer and that it was therefore not as serious as it otherwise would have been.

His Lordship was wholly unable to accept that submission. The appellant had been a solicitor's clerk, doing conveyancing work, and so the appellant's work as a conveyancer was tainted by his previous conduct. The committee should con

sider conduct which went to the core of the responsibility of conveyancing in a wholly responsible and trustworthy way.

The professional body in question demanded from its members a high standard of conduct and when its members acted dishonourably and tended to lower the respect which the public had for licensed conveyancers, it was not only entitled to but should take a grave view of it.

The proper test to be applied by the court was whether the committee had been shown, by the record, to have been plainly wrong. That had not been established and the appeal would be dismissed.

**MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON**, concurring, said that in *Re a Solicitor* (1956) 1 WLR 1312 Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice, had expressed the view that the disciplinary committee of the Law Society was right to act to maintain the confidence of the public.

In his Lordship's judgment exactly the same situation ruled as far as licensed conveyancers were concerned. This case did involve professional misconduct.

Solicitors: Sidney Torrance & Co; Mr Andrew Hopper, Postleym.

## Justices disqualified themselves in delay

**Regina v Trafford Magistrates Court, Ex parte Stott**  
Before Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice McCowan (Judgment July 1)

When justices who had heard a case decided that they might not be able to remember the evidence at the earliest date at which they could resume and ordered that the case should be re-listed before a fresh bench, they had effectively disqualified themselves from continuing the hearing and were *functus officio*.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application by Philip Stott for judicial review of a refusal by a bench of Trafford Magistrates to hear a case concerning alleged reckless driving which had been re-listed before them on the order of another bench of the same petty sessions division.

Mr Paul Bland for the applicant; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

**LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR** said that at the adjournment of the original hearing the clerk to the justices advised that the earliest convenient date for continuation was too far ahead for them to be able to remember the evidence.

The justices accepted that advice and ordered that the case be re-listed for rehearing before fresh justices.

At the hearing before the fresh bench their clerk advised that

the original bench were still seized of the matter and invited the justices to adjourn the case for the original bench to resume the rehearing. The justices consequently sent the case back.

His Lordship said that in accepting the advice of their clerk the original justices clearly accepted that they might not be able to remember the evidence at the earliest date at which they could do justice to the case. The justices were therefore disqualifying themselves and were *functus officio*.

This case could therefore be distinguished from *R v Telford Magistrates, Ex parte Cotton* (unreported, June 15, 1987).

It was not open to the fresh bench to remit the case for further hearing before the original bench.

If the original bench had then convicted the applicant he could have complained that the verdict was brought in by justices who had admitted that the delay might have affected their capacity to do justice.

It was most unfortunate that at the fresh hearing when all the witnesses were assembled the case had not simply been heard and that further costs and inconvenience had been caused when all had been ready to proceed.

The case would now have to be reheard afresh by another bench.

Solicitor: Crangle & Co, Urmston.

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# The game in crisis goes on the spree

By Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent

The transfer market is threatening once more to run dangerously out of control and strain still further the credibility of English football.

At the precise moment when the game can least afford to be thrown again into potential financial chaos, when its public standing is at a low level because of the hooliganism associated with it and the failure of the national team, Tottenham Hotspur yesterday raised the stakes to a record level by purchasing Paul Gascoigne from Newcastle United for £2 million.

The price, once thought to be beyond the reach of domestic bidders, could soon be equalled by Everton. They are expected to pay the same grossly inflated fee for Tony Cottee of West Ham. At least, Cottee is already a senior international, although he has appeared for England only as a substitute.

Such payments, particularly for players yet to be fully established, promise to have an effect even more damaging than in 1979. Nottingham Forest then broke the £1 million barrier by buying Trevor Francis (who had been capped a dozen times) and the total sales for the season eventually amounted to £43 million.

Within three years, the market had crashed. A mere £8 million was spent on transfers in 1983, and Manchester City, the club with the most lavish tastes during the wildly expensive period, were left in particular to count the cost. They gambled more heavily than others and lost.

The risk now being taken by Tottenham, Everton and other buyers is potentially even bigger. It was enlarged this week by the Government's decision to impose a national identity card system which could instantly and dramatically reverse the

trend of increasing attendances. Crowds have risen over the last two seasons.

Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, is worried that "the market could crash again. Spectators are the lifeblood of the game. They bring in £50 million a year and the membership scheme will reduce that sum. It will be very hard to maintain the income to pay such prices."

"The game seemed to be so healthy a few months ago. Then we had the incidents at Wembley during the game between England and Scotland, the trouble at Chelsea, the disappointments on and off the pitch during the European Championship, the disputes over the television contract, and now the membership scheme, which is not going to be supported financially by the government."

"All this talk of £2 million transfers is portraying a false picture. People, like the Prime

Minister, no doubt, will have the impression that football is overflowing with money. The fact is that the vast majority of clubs will find it extremely difficult to implement high technology membership systems."

Taylor appreciates that the leading five clubs (Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham) dictate the prices in the free market. Although the Football League attempted to halt the spiral in 1983 by ordering that half of a transfer fee should be paid immediately and the balance within 12 months, it has become, in his words, "a vicious circle."

"The big five clubs demand quality players and they are prepared to pay vast sums for them. In return, they want more substantial rewards, such as a bigger slice of the television money. They have created a whirlpool and I wonder whether the smaller clubs will be able to swim in it."

## HOW TRANSFER FEES ARE RISING

These are the top eight transfers from April 1, 1988, to mid-July

Name	From	To	Fee
Paul Gascoigne	Newcastle	Tottenham	£2,000,000
England under 21 international (10 caps)			
Paul Stewart	Manchester City	Tottenham	£1,500,000
England under 21 international (one cap)			
Stuart McCall	Bradford City	Everton	£850,000
Scotland under 21 international (one cap)			
Dave Beasant	Wimbledon	Newcastle	£800,000
FA Cup winners' medal			
John Robertson	Hearts	Newcastle	£750,000
Scotland under 21 international (two caps)			
Jim Lightfoot	Aberdeen	Manchester Utd	£750,000
Scotland international (54 caps)			
John Hinde	Bradford City	Newcastle	£500,000
England under 21 international (one cap)			
Kevin Dinnick	Norwich	Rangers	£500,000

These are the top eight transfers from April 1, 1987, to mid-July (caps correct at time of transfer)

Name	From	To	Fee
Peter Beardsley	Newcastle	Liverpool	£1,500,000
England international (15 caps)			
John Barnes	Wolverhampton	Liverpool	£900,000
England international (31 caps); one FA Cup runners-up medal			
Brian McClair	Celtic	Manchester Utd	£850,000
Scotland international (four caps)			
Dave Seddie	Chelsea	Cowesley	£750,000
Scotland international (five caps)			
Mark McCann	Manchester City	Celtic	£500,000
Republic of Ireland international (19 caps)			
Tony Dorigo	Aston Villa	Chelsea	£475,000
England under 21 international (seven caps)			
Nigel Winterburn	Wimbledon	Arsenal	£400,000
England under 21 international (one cap)			
Chris Furlough	Nottingham For	Tottenham	£387,500

## Government preparing way for card scheme

By John Goodbody

The Government yesterday began preparing to carry out its national identity card scheme for all football spectators, ordered by the Prime Minister at the Downing Street meeting with the game's authorities.

Already 20 companies have written to Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, suggesting methods for issuing identity cards, a plan which is expected for the 1989-90 season following Parliamentary legislation.

On a day when the Football League management committee was considering large rival television offers and Tottenham Hotspur were concluding a £2 million transfer, the Government believed

the financial outlay for an efficient identity card plan was well within the game's financial resources, particularly when there are immense marketing possibilities in such a scheme.

Within the next month, Moynihan will have the first meeting of the working party, consisting of representatives of the Government, the police, the Football Association and the Football League, to begin discussing details of the scheme.

The Football Trust, which is financially supported by the pools companies, will also have a meeting on July 26 to consider any requests for assistance.

Among the companies who have proposed schemes are

Dacoli, which has installed a pilot operation at Oxford United. Denis Manning, the divisional sales manager, said that this cost £15,000 and a similar operation throughout the League would cost less than £2 million.

The belief that it would take too long for spectators to put cards into terminals for verification was not borne out by experience. Manning said it was a matter of "split seconds".

What will probably be impracticable under any card scheme will be to check every spectator at every ground to discover whether an individual has borrowed the card from an authorized holder. However, random checks will be feasible and any person

who does not possess the card to which he is entitled could be banned from attending games. This would also apply to the person who lent the card.

If a person has his or her card stolen or loses the identification, then its facilities can be immediately cancelled, as with an ordinary credit card after a loss is reported. All clubs would be linked with a central computer and segregation of fans could be aided because access to certain parts of the ground could be easily blocked off.

If, therefore, in an Arsenal v Manchester United game a home supporter attempted access to the United end of the ground, then the micro-computer at the gate could be programmed to reject the card. A Tottenham follower visiting this game could also be directed to a separate part of the ground.

The clubs will also have the facility to use the information in the computer on card-holders for marketing, issuing information and the distribution of tickets for special events, such as the FA Cup final: the computer will be able to list exactly how many matches an individual has attended during a season.

John McCrindle, the general manager of GEC Card Technology, has put alternative proposals to the Government.

## Plan receives cool reception

Philip Carter, chairman of the Football League, gave the Government's anti-hooligan plans a cool reception (Steve Acteson writes). He said: "In view of the fact that crowd control at grounds has improved over the last two or three seasons, we are of the opinion that a national membership scheme would not be addressing the right problem. The problem now is outside grounds and if the

Government wants to tackle that, we will be happy to participate."

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, said: "Although we have been happy to co-operate with the Sports Minister's working party, we are reluctant to implement a national membership scheme bearing in mind the financial implications this would place on smaller clubs."

Peter Swales, chairman of

Manchester City, voiced what he believed to be the consensus of the 92 League clubs when he spoke out against the Government plan to introduce a national membership scheme with identity cards.

Swales said: "I think every club in football will be against this scheme, with the possible exception of Luton. If it becomes law, then we'll have to accept it but that doesn't mean we have got to like it."

## Wembley gets the go-ahead

By Steve Acteson

Wembley's international four-day tournament was re-instated yesterday after some tough talking, a hint of legal action and criticism as expressed in *The Times*. The Football Association lifted its ban on the tournament, and it will go ahead, as planned, on the weekend of August 13 and 14, with Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Bayern Munich and AC Milan. Wembley is planning a maximum 66,000 all-seated crowd to reduce the risk of hooliganism.

Milan are expected to include Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, from the Netherlands team which won the European Championship. Bayern will field Johnny Ekström, the Swedish international forward, and a quartet of West German internationals.

More heavy morning rain delayed the start until 2.30. Hampshire had been left at Wednesday's close with nine wickets standing and 41 overs in which to make another 186 to win, and quite soon after yesterday's resumption Chris Smith was sent back by Nicholas, slipped and pulled a hamstring. When he asked for, and was allowed, a runner, Terry, as the only batsman out, came and acted for him, and it was this which led eventually to an altercation.

Terry could probably give Smith three yards in 22. It is the hare and the tortoise. Not only this. The time came when Roebuck reckoned Terry was jumping the gun by starting to run, from his position at square leg, before Smith had

## Hick banks Trophy century



Virtuoso performer: Hick, the Worcestershire batsman, pulls a ball for four on his way to a century in the NatWest Trophy match yesterday against Nottinghamshire. Report, page 34

## Roebuck jumps in to take issue with Terry the hare

By John Woodcock

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Hampshire beat Somerset by six wickets.

Hampshire duly fortified themselves for tomorrow's Benson and Hedges final with a NatWest Trophy victory but not before we had what amounted, I suppose, to an "incident". Needing 228 to win, Hampshire made them with an over to spare, their three South Africans, the Smith brothers and Jefferies, having everything to do with it.

More heavy morning rain delayed the start until 2.30. Hampshire had been left at Wednesday's close with nine wickets standing and 41 overs in which to make another 186 to win, and quite soon after yesterday's resumption Chris Smith was sent back by Nicholas, slipped and pulled a hamstring. When he asked for, and was allowed, a runner, Terry, as the only batsman out, came and acted for him, and it was this which led eventually to an altercation.

Terry could probably give Smith three yards in 22. It is the hare and the tortoise. Not only this. The time came when Roebuck reckoned Terry was jumping the gun by starting to run, from his position at square leg, before Smith had

completed his stroke. At 135 for two, by which time Terry had been out there for 18 overs, Roebuck made an issue of it, which seemed perfectly fair if he was convinced of his case, as I am sure he was.

If Somerset's plight was a factor that, too, was understandable. The presence of a runner can be confusing at the best of times and frustrating. It was only a pity that rather than the matter being quickly resolved, with the umpires warning Terry to be watchful, it took at least five minutes to sort out.

The captains had to be told to calm down. Nicholas having been sent for, and even when play was resumed Roebuck was not exactly grunted. He had asked for a change of runner and was still wanting one. The umpires said that only if they themselves saw Terry stealing ground would he be changed.

On their way to victory, Hampshire took a long time celebrating. When Nicholas was out in the 34th over they were 80 for two, and having a job to get on top, and certainly the running between the wickets was to play a considerable part in their doing so, Robin Smith being, like Terry, a flyer. By the start of the last 20

overs, with eight wickets still standing and 117 needed, Somerset were badly in need of a wicket.

In the event they got two in successive balls from Rose, Bartlett doing very well to hold on to a skyer at square leg despite colliding with Palmer, and Turner being left before. With seven overs left, 48 were needed and Somerset were back in it, just.

But their hopes were at once dashed again by Jefferies, who rattled up 31 in 23 balls. Chris Smith, down to a hobble by now, went on finding the third-man boundary, and it was to him that Don Kenyon gave the Man-of-the-match award. There was also a mention in dispatches for Marks and Bartlett.

**SOMERSET 227 for 7 (R J Bartlett 65)**  
Hampshire: V P Terry c Pringle b Marks 39  
CL Smith not out 32  
M C Nicholas c Hardy b Waugh 36  
R A Smith c Bartlett b Rose 36  
D A Turner c b Rose 36  
S T Jefferies b Waugh 61  
N G Cowley not out 21  
Extras (b-4, lb-11, w-5, nb-1) 21  
Total (5 wickets, 58 overs) 227  
J R Ailing, TR J Parris, C A Connor and S J W Andriani did not bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-40, 3-180, 4-180, 5-224.  
SLOW BALLS: Jones 11-4-37-0, Maltman 12-0-41-0, Marks 12-3-31-1, Rose 12-0-46-2, Waugh 11-0-61-2, Palmer 1-0-6-0.  
Man of the match: C L Smith.  
Umpires: J D Bond and R Jiles.

## Holders lose out on appeal

Sam Hammam, the chairman of Wimbledon, the FA Cup holders, was "shattered" yesterday at the Football Association's decision to reject appeals by both the club and the nine players involved in the shorts incident at Plough Lane two days after the final (Steve Acteson writes).

Nine players lined up in the centre circle and bared their backsides during a testimonial for Alan Clark. Their act was duly photographed and, after the FA had received complaints from the public, a disciplinary commission fined the club £5,000, and the players £750 each.

Hammam will have discussions with his coach, Don Howe, and manager, Bobby Gould, when the latter has returned from holiday, before deciding the future of England under-21 international forward, Dennis Wise, aged 21, who has submitted a written transfer request. The club are expected to demand nearly £2 million.

Hammam said: "If people like Gascoigne and Cottee can command fees of around £2 million then Wise cannot be far behind."

The Football Association are seeking alternative opponents following the "reluctant" decision to cancel the proposed friendly international match in Italy on November 16.

The decision was taken because of fears of a hooliganism overspill from the blighted European Championship when there was trouble involving fans of four countries, England, the hosts West Germany, Holland and Italy.

Ken Brown, who was controversially sacked last season by Norwich City, was yesterday installed as the seventeenth post-war manager of Plymouth Argyle (A Special Correspondent writes).

The former West Ham player, now aged 34, has been handed a three-year contract at Home Park, where he will be expected to bring first division football to Devon for the first time.

## Gascoigne signing sets British record

By Steve Acteson

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday officially confirmed the signing of midfield player Paul Gascoigne, from Newcastle United, for £2 million, a British transfer record.

Gascoigne, aged 21, has signed a five-year contract reported to be worth around £1 million to the player. His capture follows the signing, only three weeks earlier, of Paul Stewart, another England under-21 player, from Manchester City for £1.5 million.

Since Terry Venables took over from David Pleat as the Tottenham manager last November, he has spent more than £5 million on new players.

Venables was predictably delighted over his latest coup yesterday, particularly as he had had to beat off some severe opposition, most notably by Manchester United.

We have had to fight off

## Wembley gets the go-ahead

By Steve Acteson

Wembley's international four-day tournament was re-instated yesterday after some tough talking, a hint of legal action and criticism as expressed in *The Times*. The Football Association lifted its ban on the tournament, and it will go ahead, as planned, on the weekend of August 13 and 14, with Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Bayern Munich and AC Milan. Wembley is planning a maximum 66,000 all-seated crowd to reduce the risk of hooliganism.

Milan are expected to include Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, from the Netherlands team which won the European Championship. Bayern will field Johnny Ekström, the Swedish international forward, and a quartet of West German internationals.

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END COLUMN

## Ferrari lure too great for Mansell

By John Bannister

It is sad when Britain's most successful grand prix driver has to leave a "home" team, especially one as fervently patriotic as Williams in order to drive for "the opposition". But who in his right mind would criticise Nigel Mansell for grasping the offer made to him — for the second time in as many years and in the region of \$4 million — by Ferrari?

As Mansell himself reminded us at Silverstone yesterday afternoon, when he held open court to the early arrivals of the press corps assembled for the Shell Oil British Grand Prix on Sunday: "Ferrari is the greatest name in motor sport and I deem it a privilege to be able to drive for them."

Back in 1986, however, when the lure of a Ferraridrive had been insufficient to prevent him from signing a further two-year contract with Williams, the situation had been rather different and a far amount of flak flew over the Ferrari headquarters in Maranello when it became clear that Mansell had escaped the net.

With his 34-year-old son Leo on his knee, Mansell's family man explained some of the background to his earlier visit to Enzo Ferrari. "After we talked in 1986 we discussed our views on a piece of paper. Subsequently, there was a difference of opinion as to what that piece of paper constituted. To us it merely represented a catalogue of the points raised at the meeting, but to others it apparently meant something more. However, the misunderstanding was put right and my relations with Ferrari ever since have been very good."

Apparently it was Ferrari, not Mansell, who made the first move recently which has resulted in his signature on a contract. Although he will no longer be No. 1 in his team (there is no such status at Ferrari), Mansell expressed himself as delighted with the small print. "It's a good contract," he said, and although it is only for one season there is an early option for an extension.

They say that in order to stand the heat in the Ferrari kitchen you need to be a politician as well as a driver. But when he joins the team where emotions are never far beneath the surface he is determined to wear blinkers. "I'm a professional racing driver and I am content to concentrate 100 per cent on driving; I'll leave the politics to the politicians."

His earlier visit to Italy, it seems, was in a sense a fact-finding tour and the fact of the matter at that time was that a new Williams contract was more attractive. "When I signed my last Williams contract in 1986, I did so on the understanding that I would be driving both for Williams and for Honda for the next two years, and of course it hasn't turned out that way."

But that will not stop Mansell from giving his present employers his all for the remainder of the season. "We have achieved a lot together and I want to thank everyone in the Williams team for all their efforts. I'll be doing my best for them until the very last race and if I train on Sunday — and I'll make a prediction that I will — who knows, maybe Williams will be on the rostrum for the first time this season."

It was the total package offered by Ferrari which proved irresistible, on top, presumably, of the intangible car of being able to say one day to his grandchildren: "I drove for Ferrari". A new V12-engined car of exciting potential designed by John Barnard, the luxury of a private test track at Fiorano adjacent to the team headquarters, the vast resources of Fiat behind the team. No other team, with the exception of McLaren, can offer as much.

Mansell will also be driving alongside a "good" friend. "Gerhard [Berger] is one of the quickest drivers around and I am sure we will complement each other and make a formidable team."

Thatcher  
Oil  
safer  
basic

100 walk

Reflex

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